



HOLY COW!! ANOTHER HIT!!

6
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JUNE 86

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

mazing man



**ALL-STAR
BASEBALL
SPECTACULAR!**
— PLUS —

**BRENDA'S
STORY!**

**Don't miss
DARK KNIGHT...#1!**

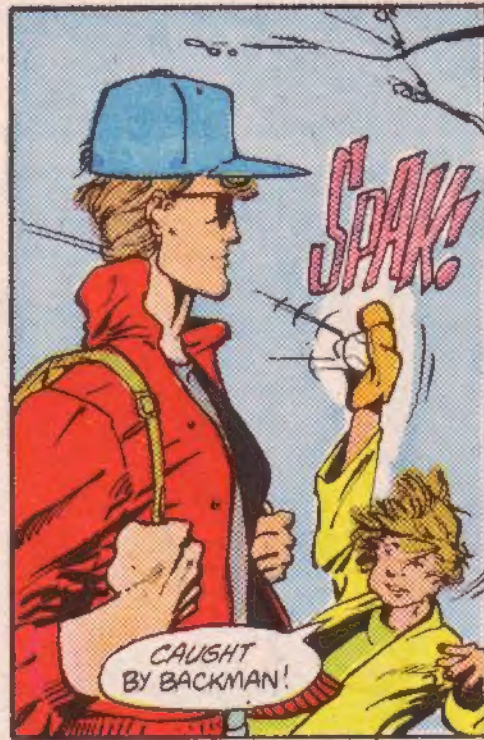


SJS/KK

Amazing man™

THE LINE-UP:
BOB ROZAKIS, OF
STEPHEN DESTEFANO, 1B
BOB SMITH, SS
JOHN COSTANZA, RF
TOM ZIUKO, C
ALAN GOLD, BATBOY

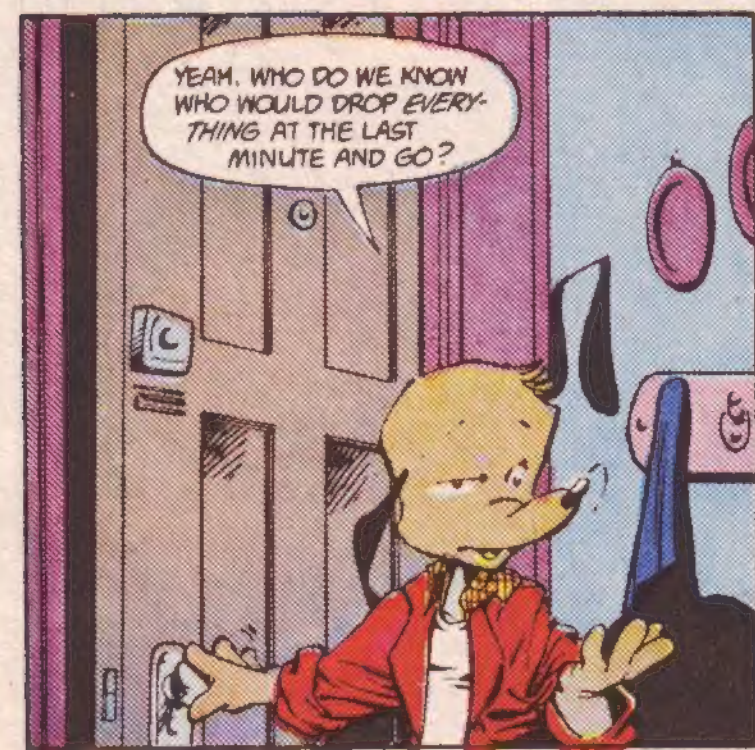
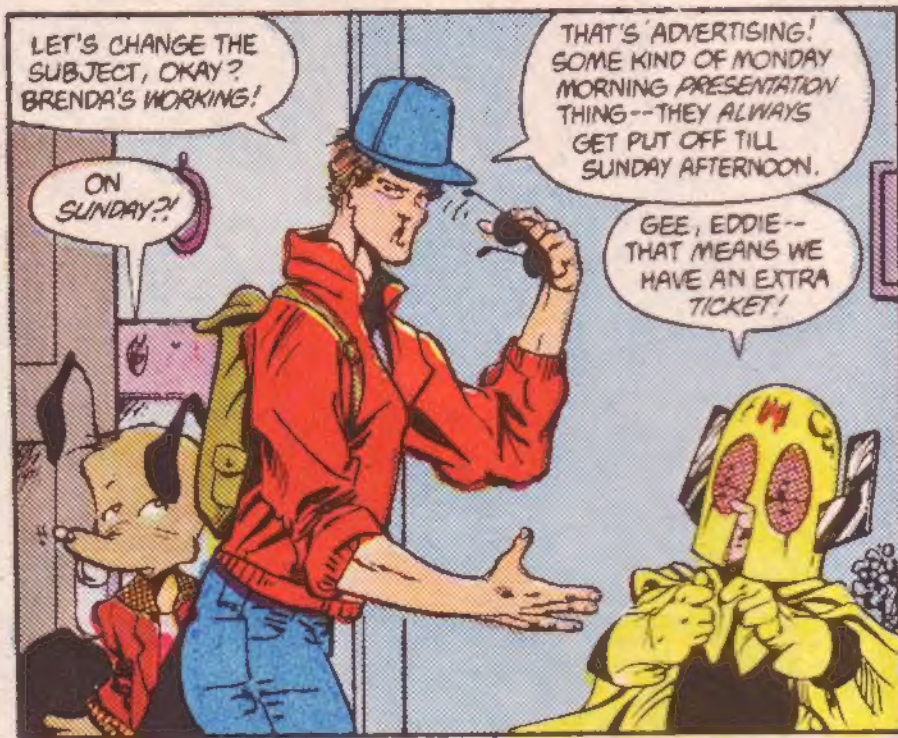
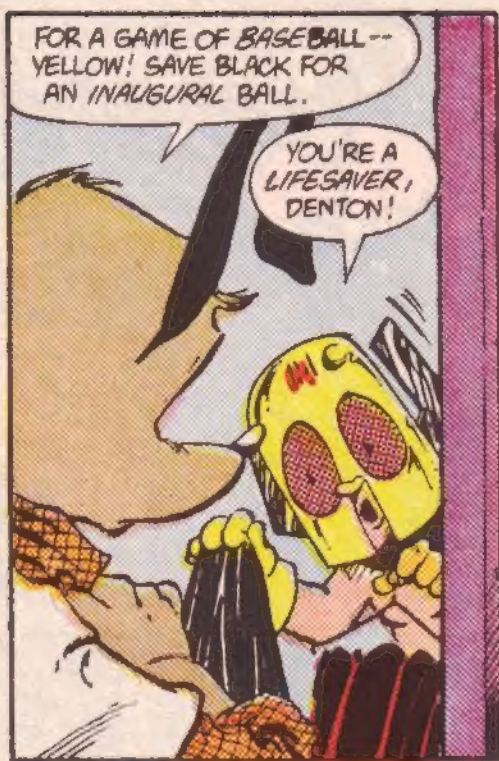
BZZT! -- IS BOB MURPHY, THE
METS TAKE ON THE PIRATES AT
SHEA TODAY, AT 1:30! JOIN US
FOR ALL THE ACTION!



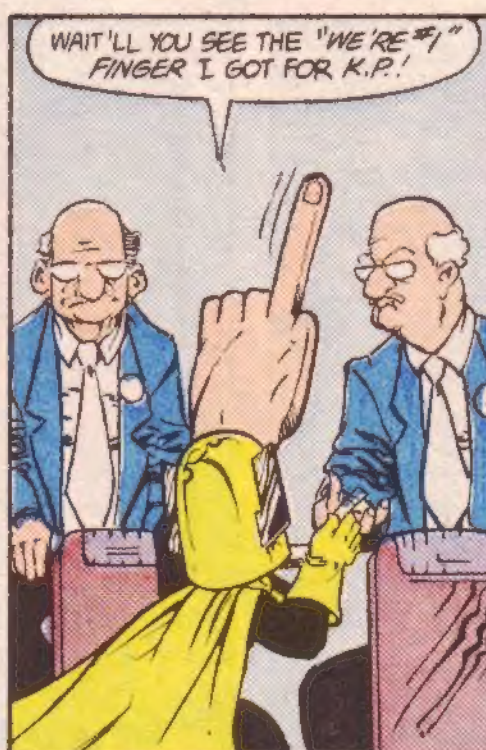
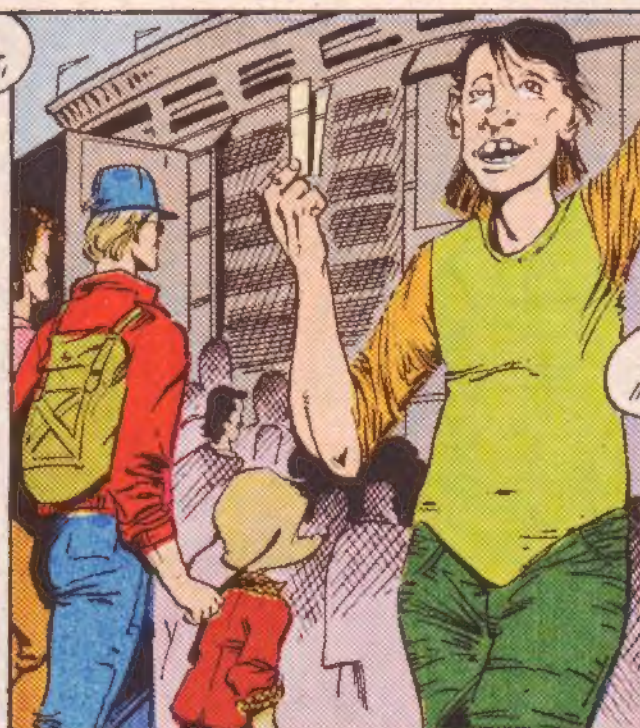
**TAKE
ME OUT
TO THE
BALLGAME**

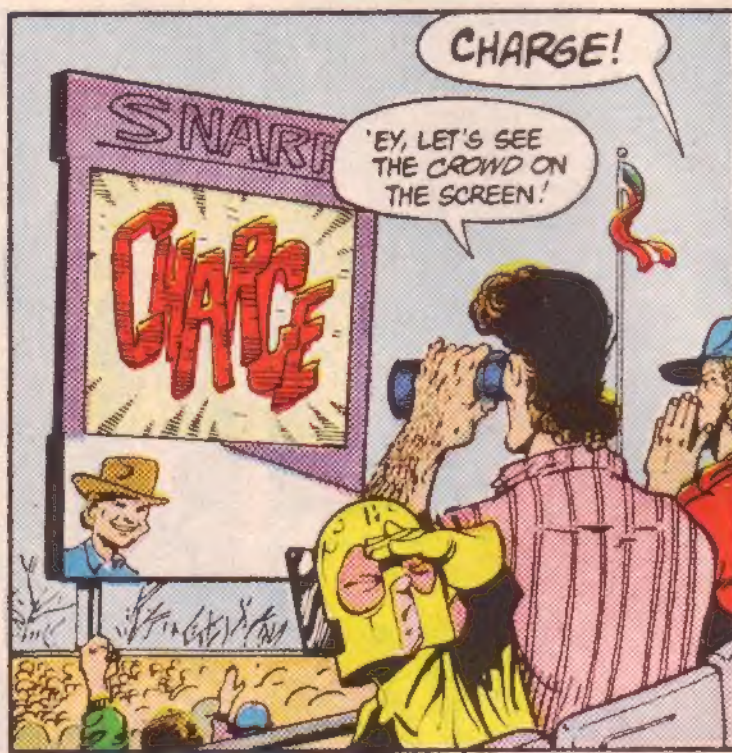
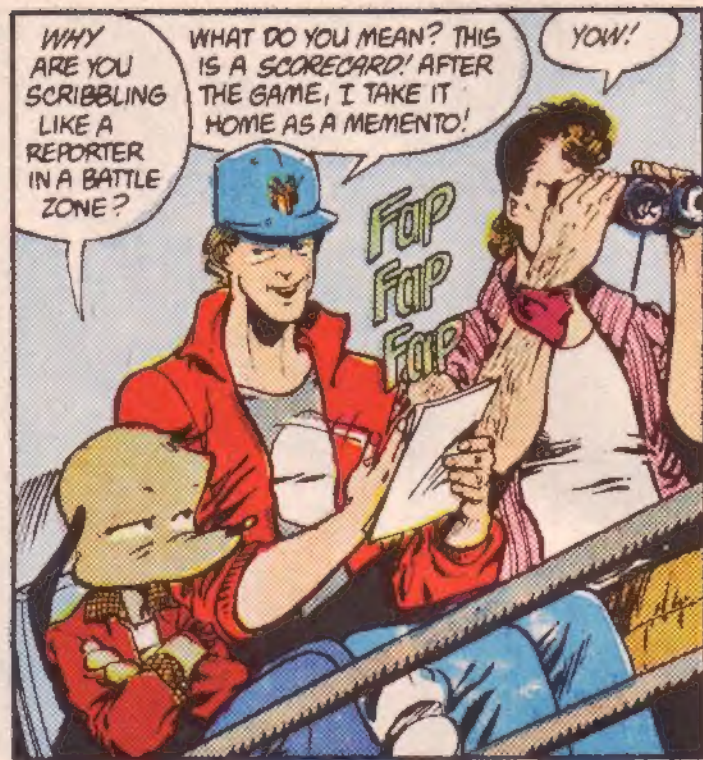
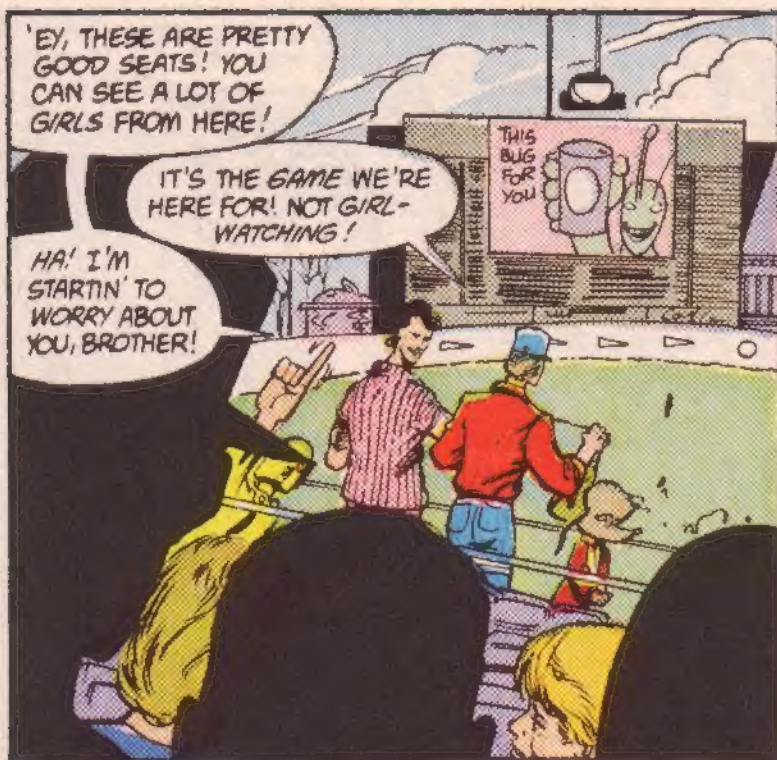


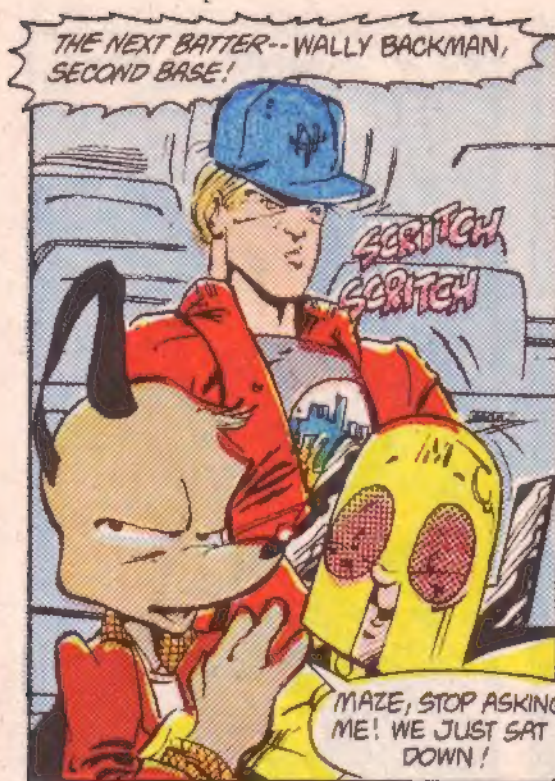
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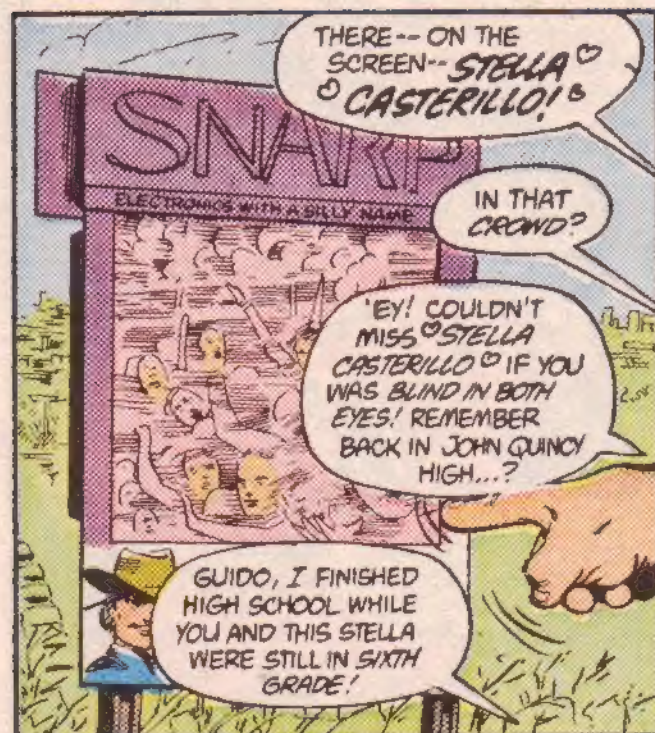


ONE SUBWAY RIDE (and three subway delays) LATER...











NOW BATTING -- GARY CARTER, CATCHER!

YAY YYYYYY

DUM-
DA-
DUM...



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! NOW PLAYING CENTER FIELD -- NUMBER ONE -- STEADY... EDDIE... VALENTINE!



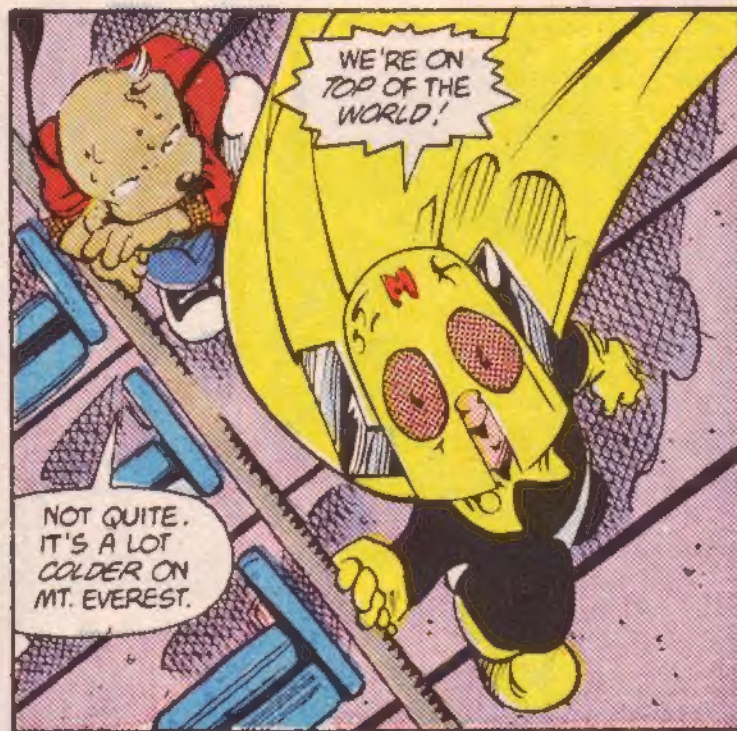
AWRIGHT, GARY. TRY AND HIT ONE OUT -- I'M READY FOR IT!



OKAY, PUFF PUFF -- WE'RE HERE... ARE YOU H-H-HAPPY NOW?

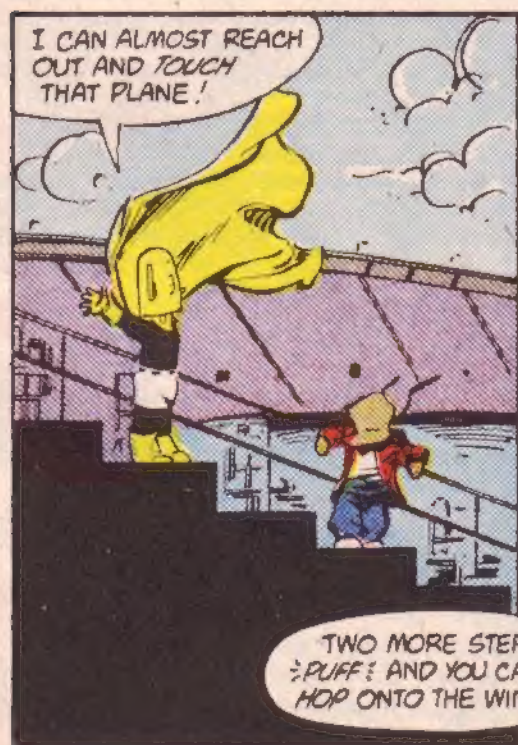
JUST A LITTLE BIT FARTHER, DENTON. COME ON.

BATTING FOR THE PIRATES, SHORTSTOP SAMMY KHALIFA!



WE'RE ON TOP OF THE WORLD!

NOT QUITE. IT'S A LOT COLDER ON MT. EVEREST.



I CAN ALMOST REACH OUT AND TOUCH THAT PLANE!

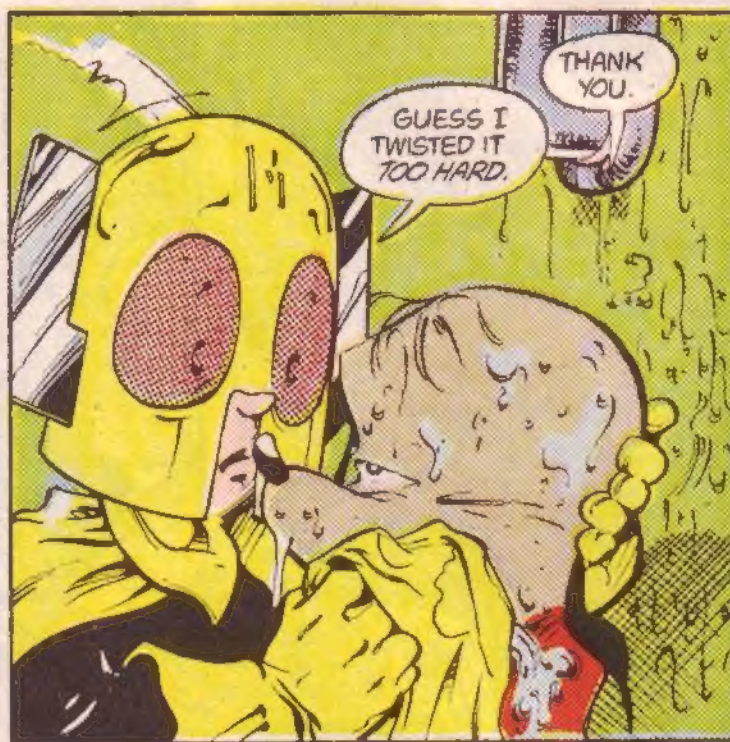
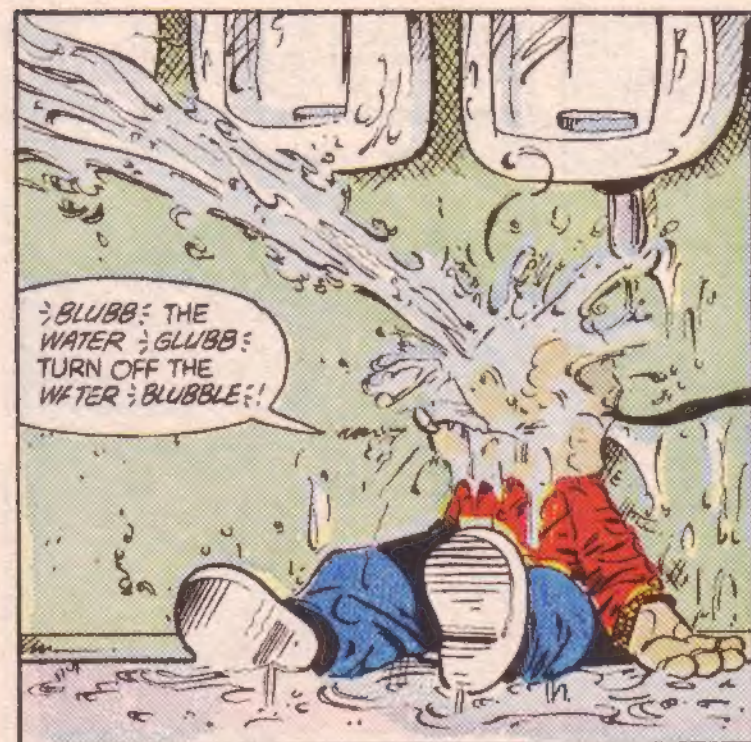
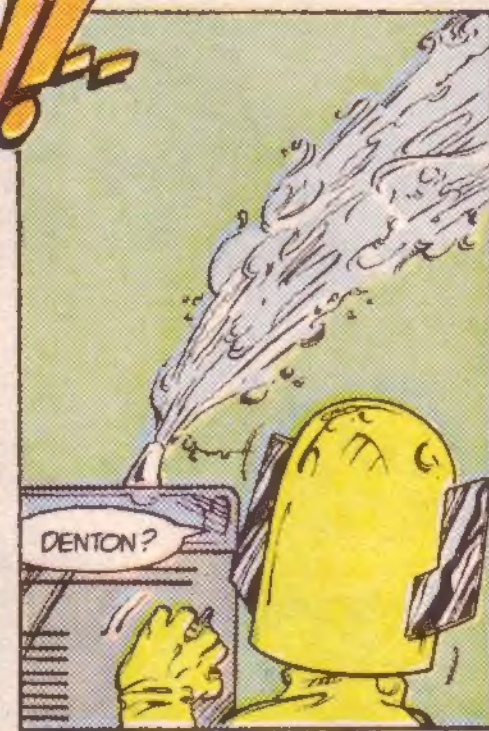
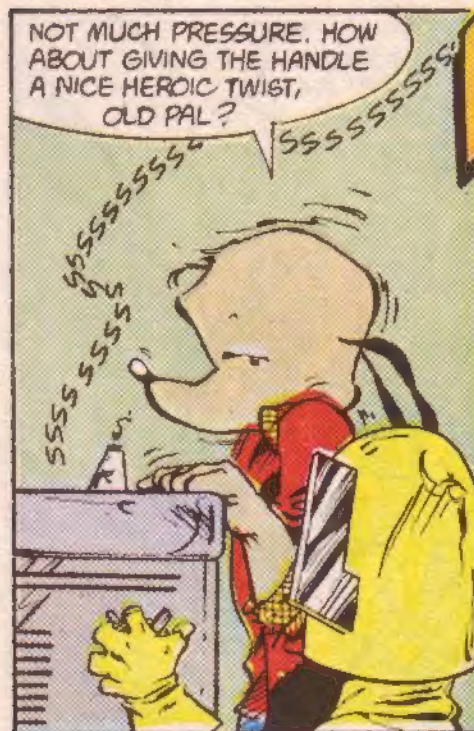
TWO MORE STEPS PUFF! AND YOU CAN HOP ONTO THE WING!



SKREEEEEEEEEE

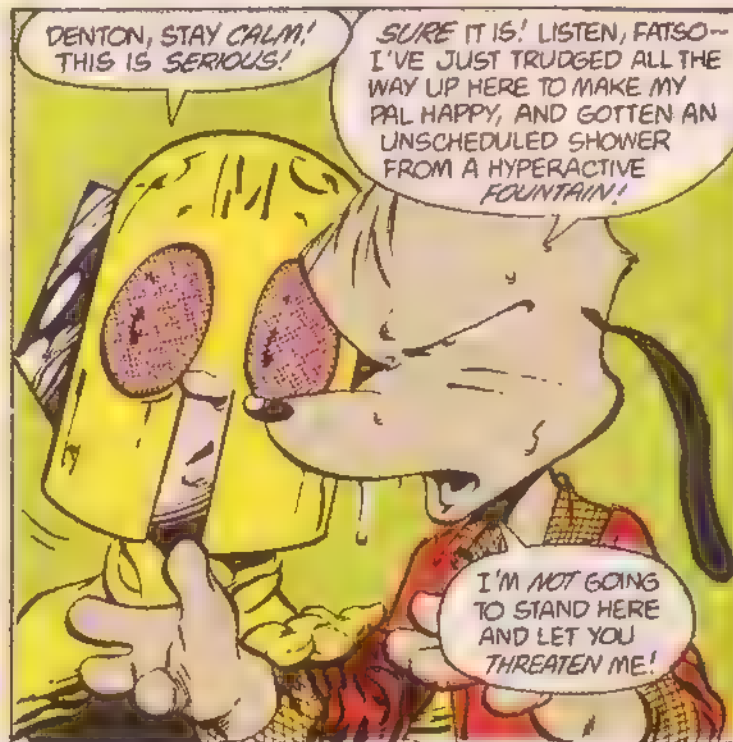
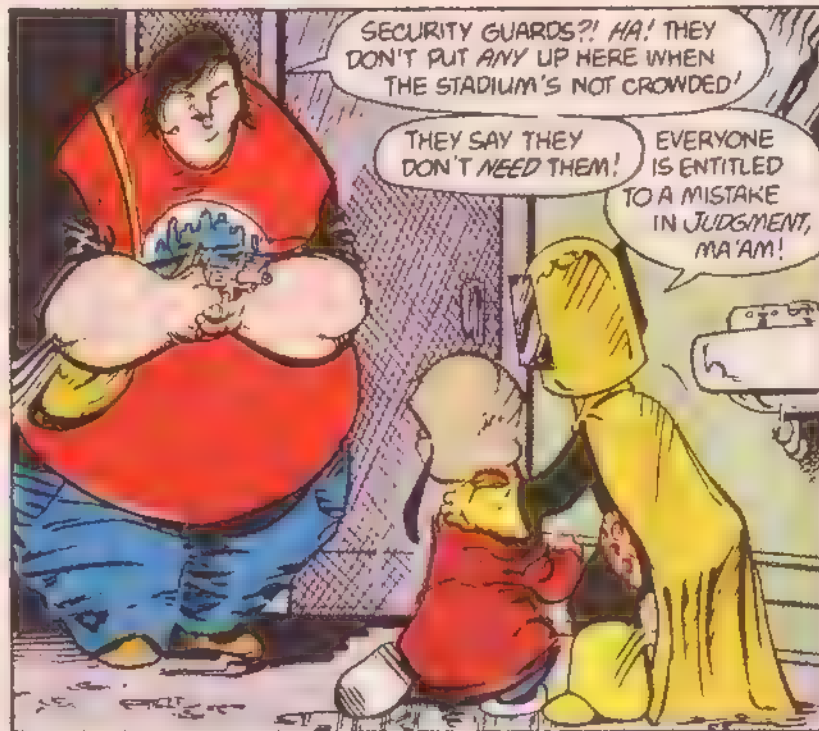


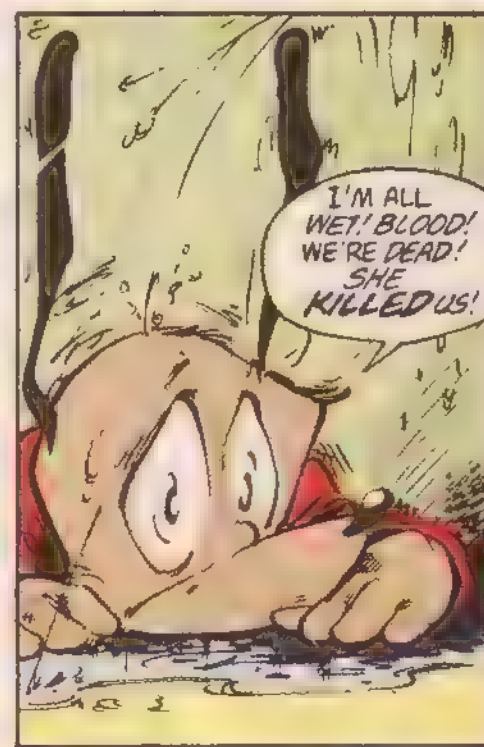
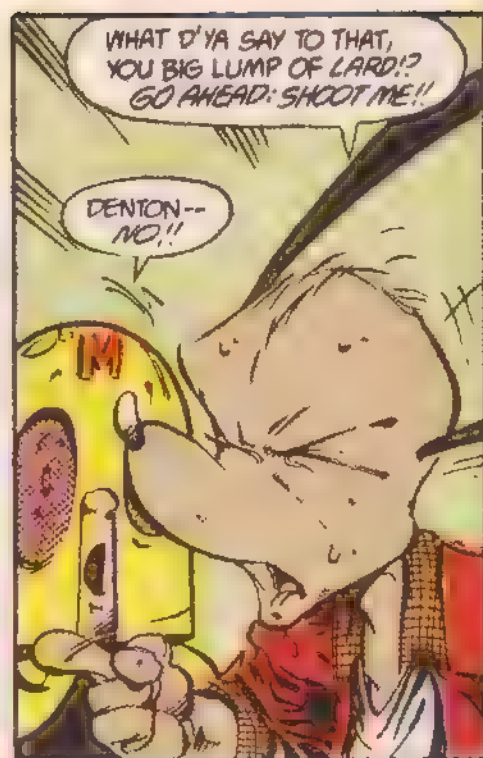
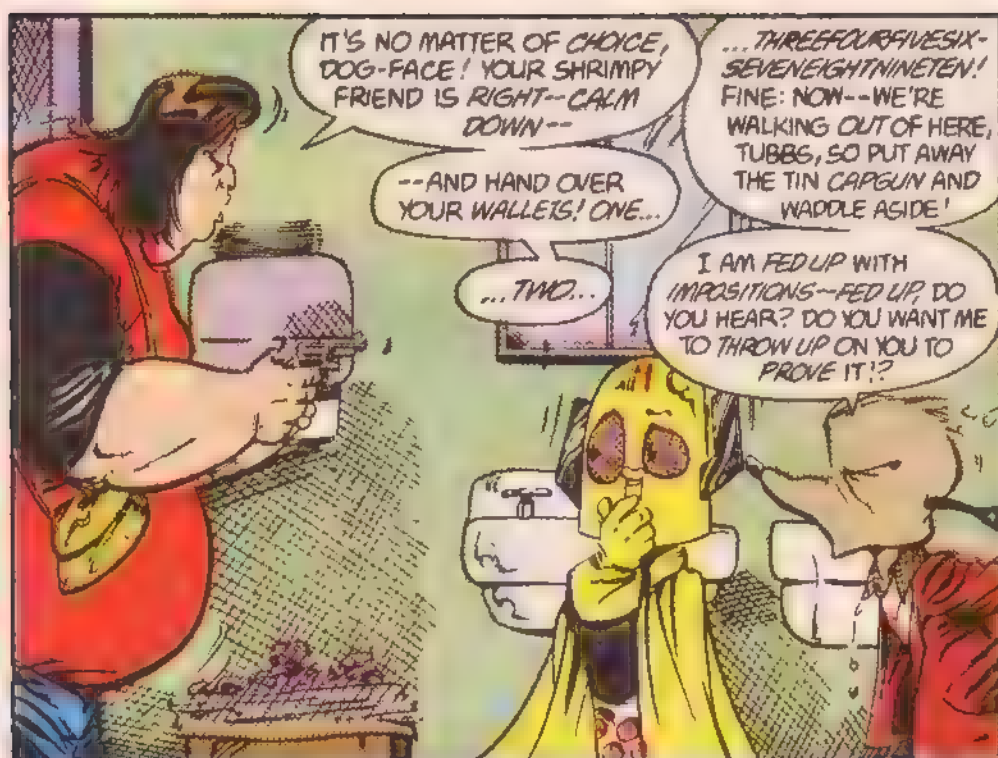
LOOK, BEFORE THE RED CROSS HAS TO AIRLIFT US OUT OF HERE, CAN WE MOVE ALONG? I NEED SOMETHING TO DRINK!

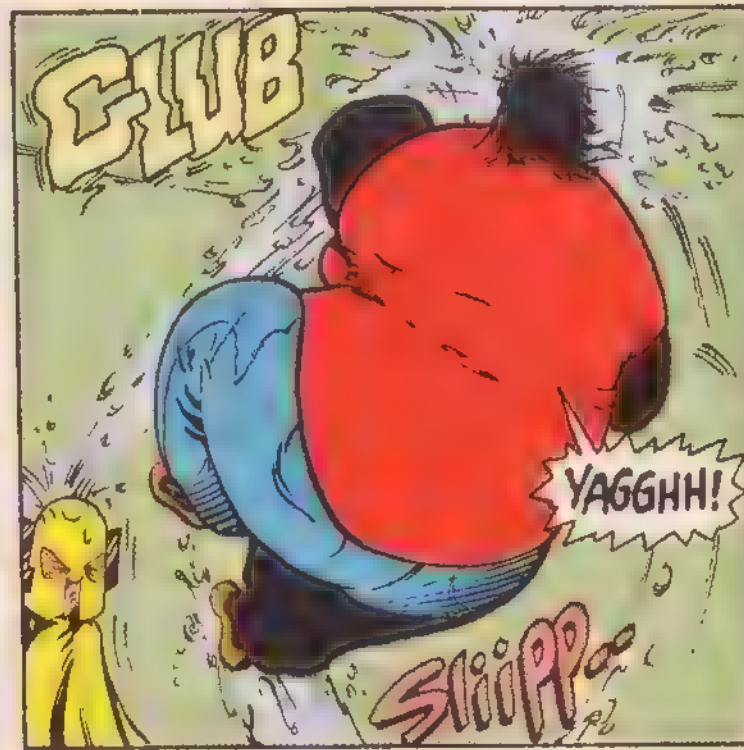
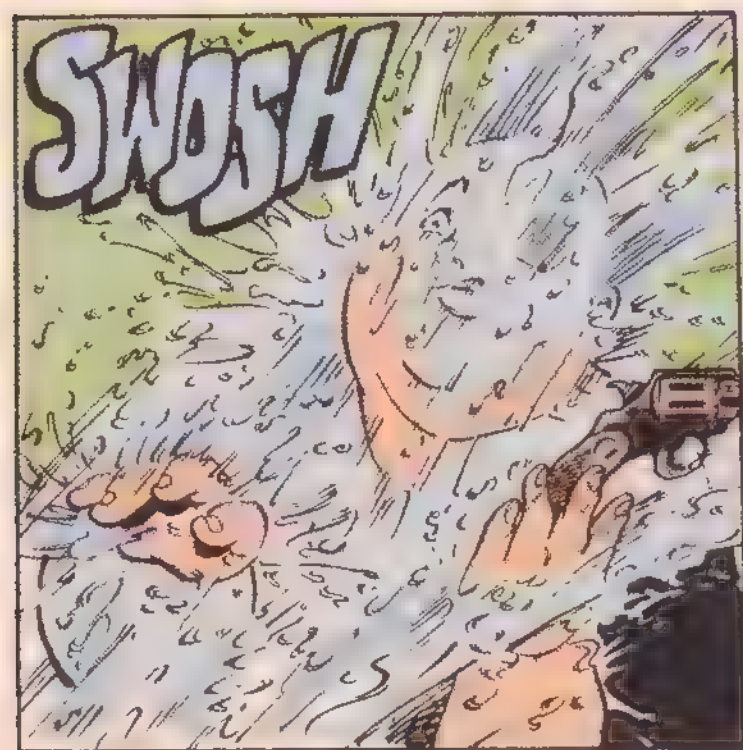
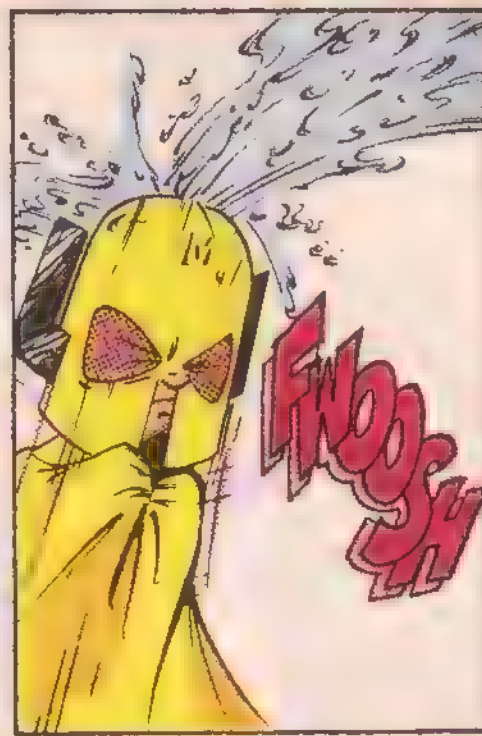
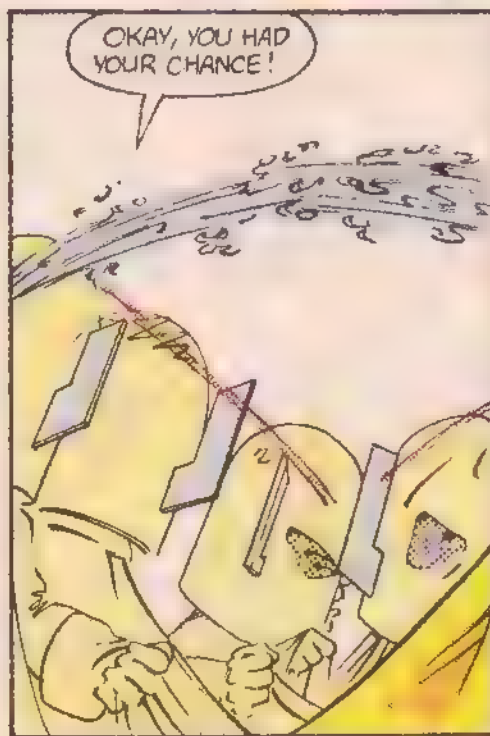
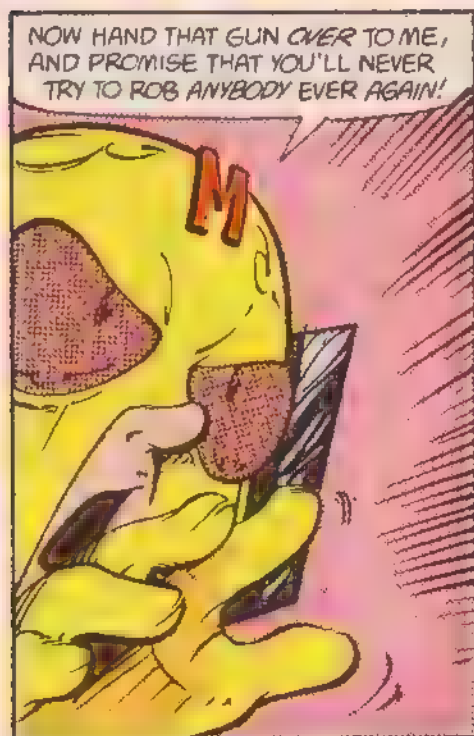
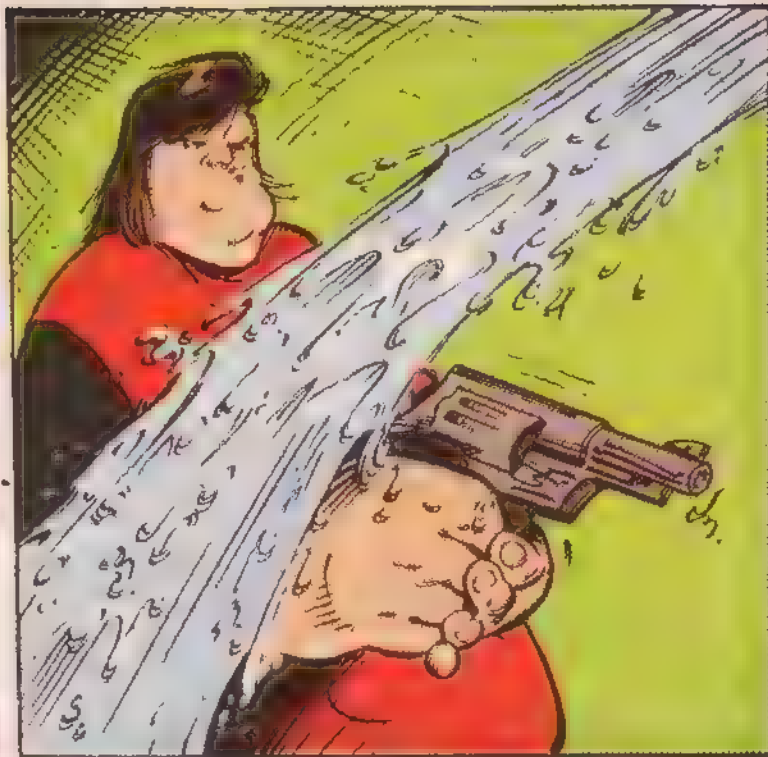
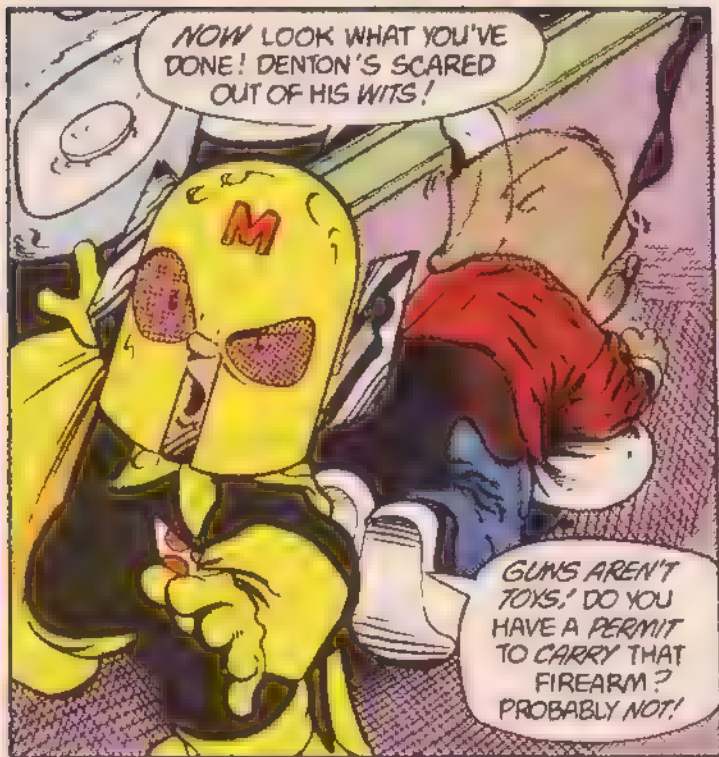


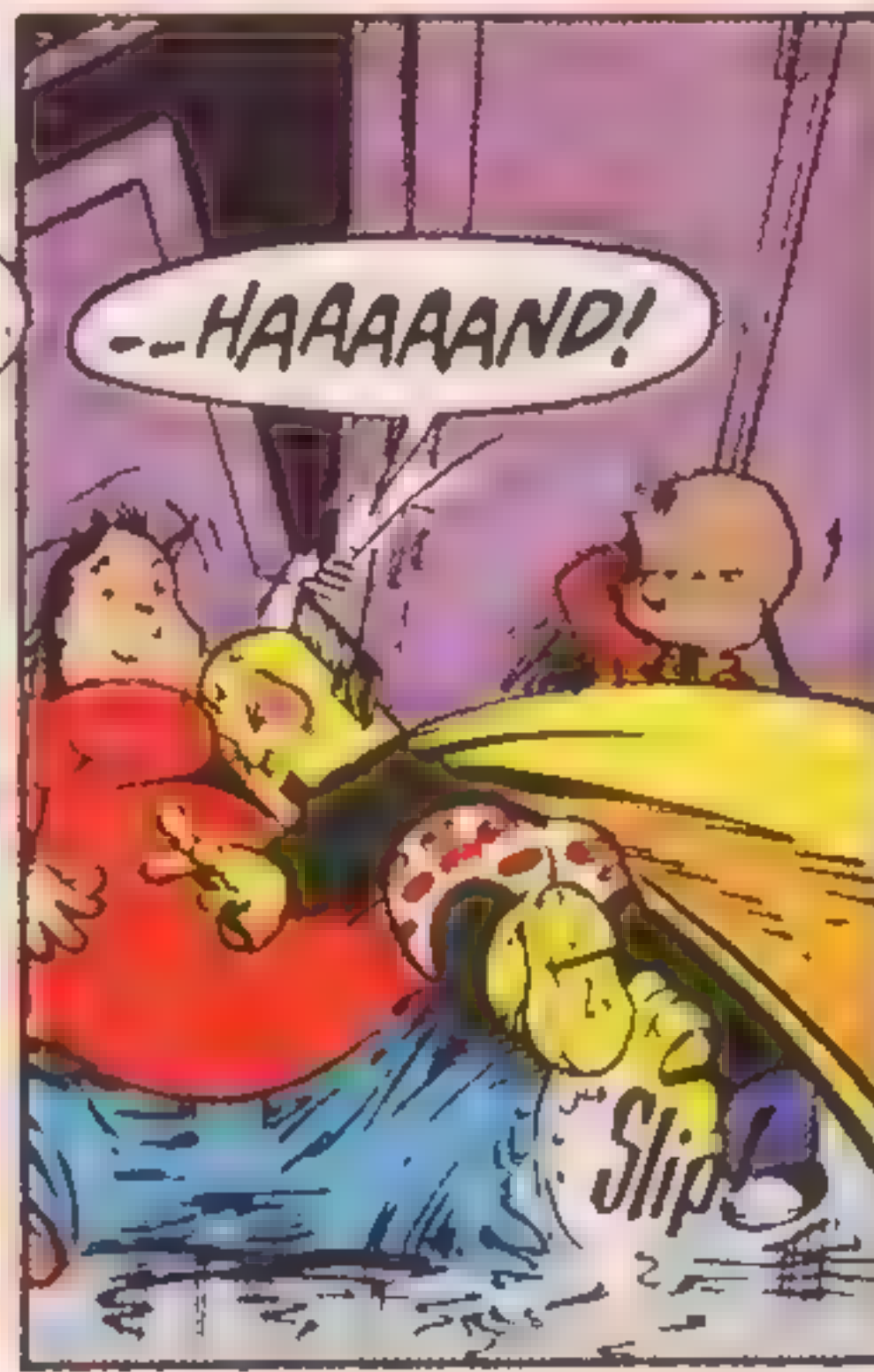
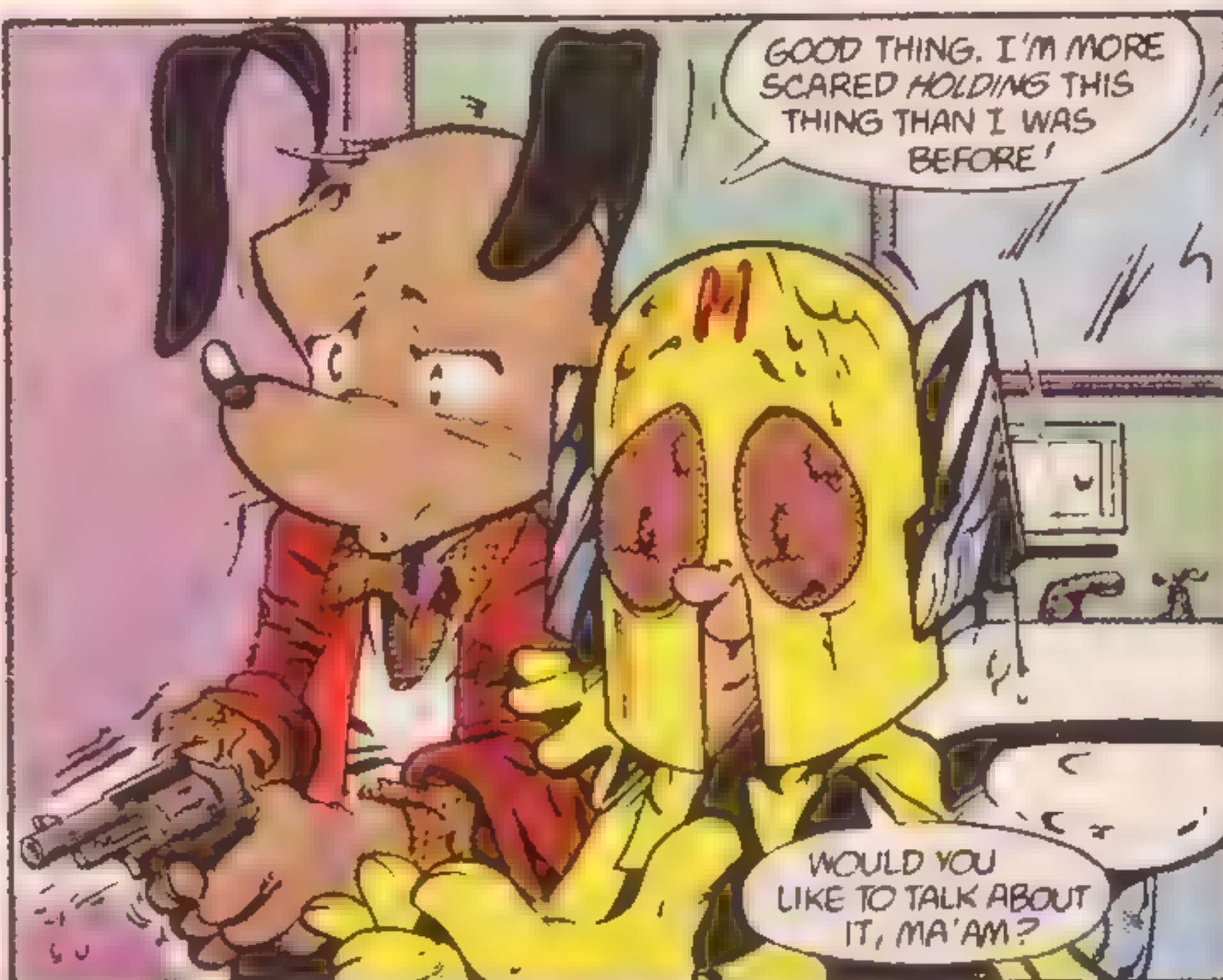
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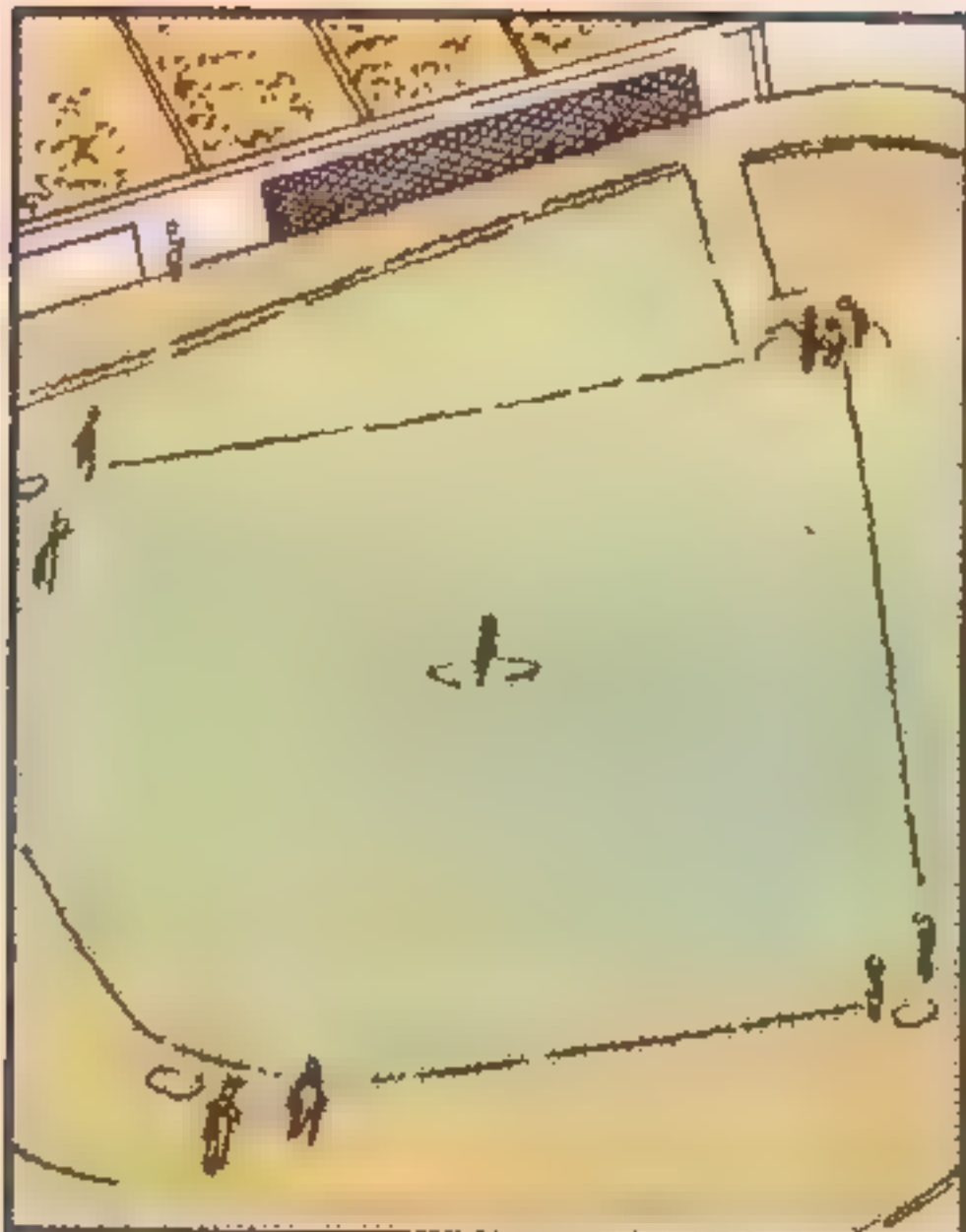




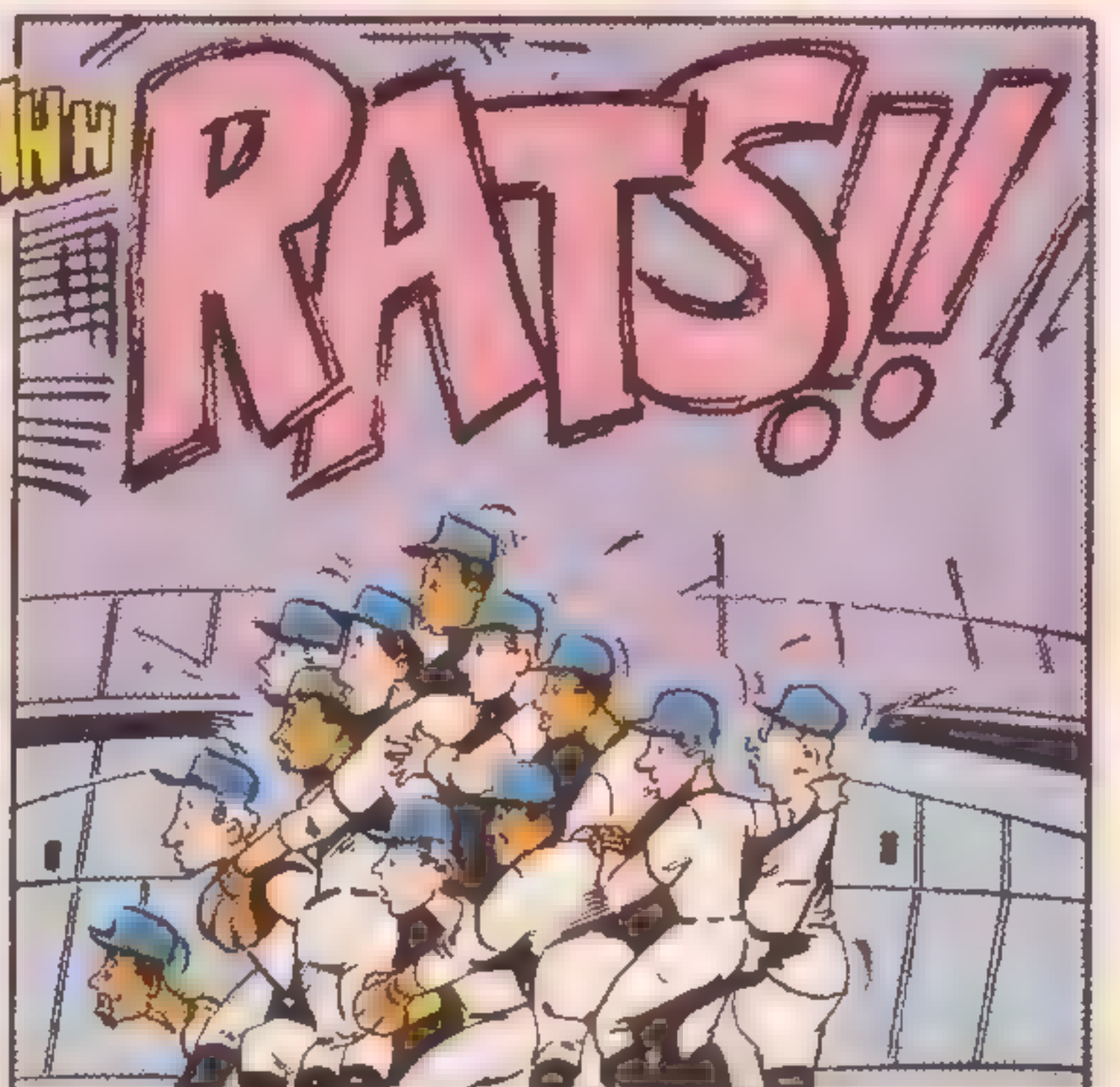
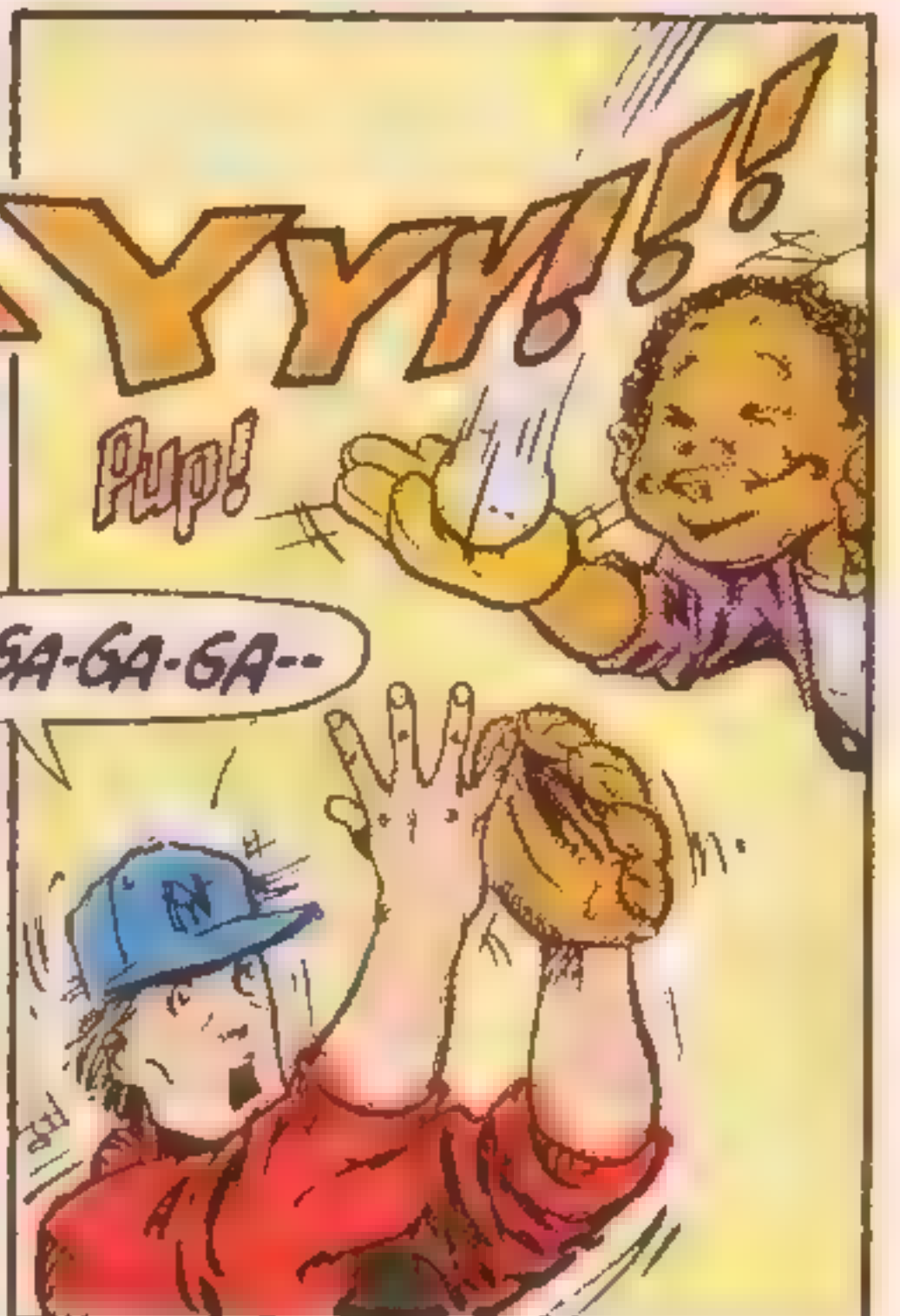
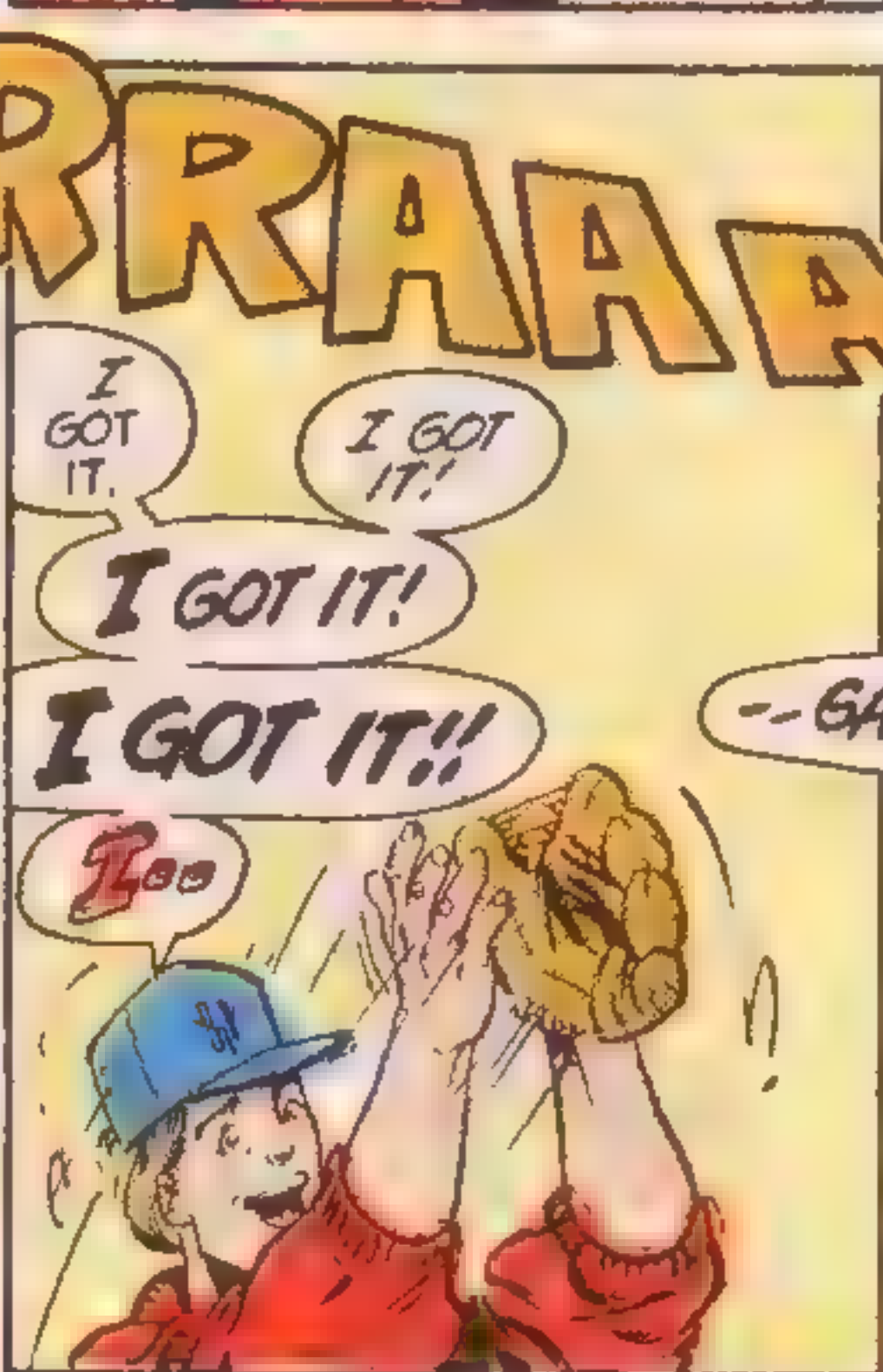
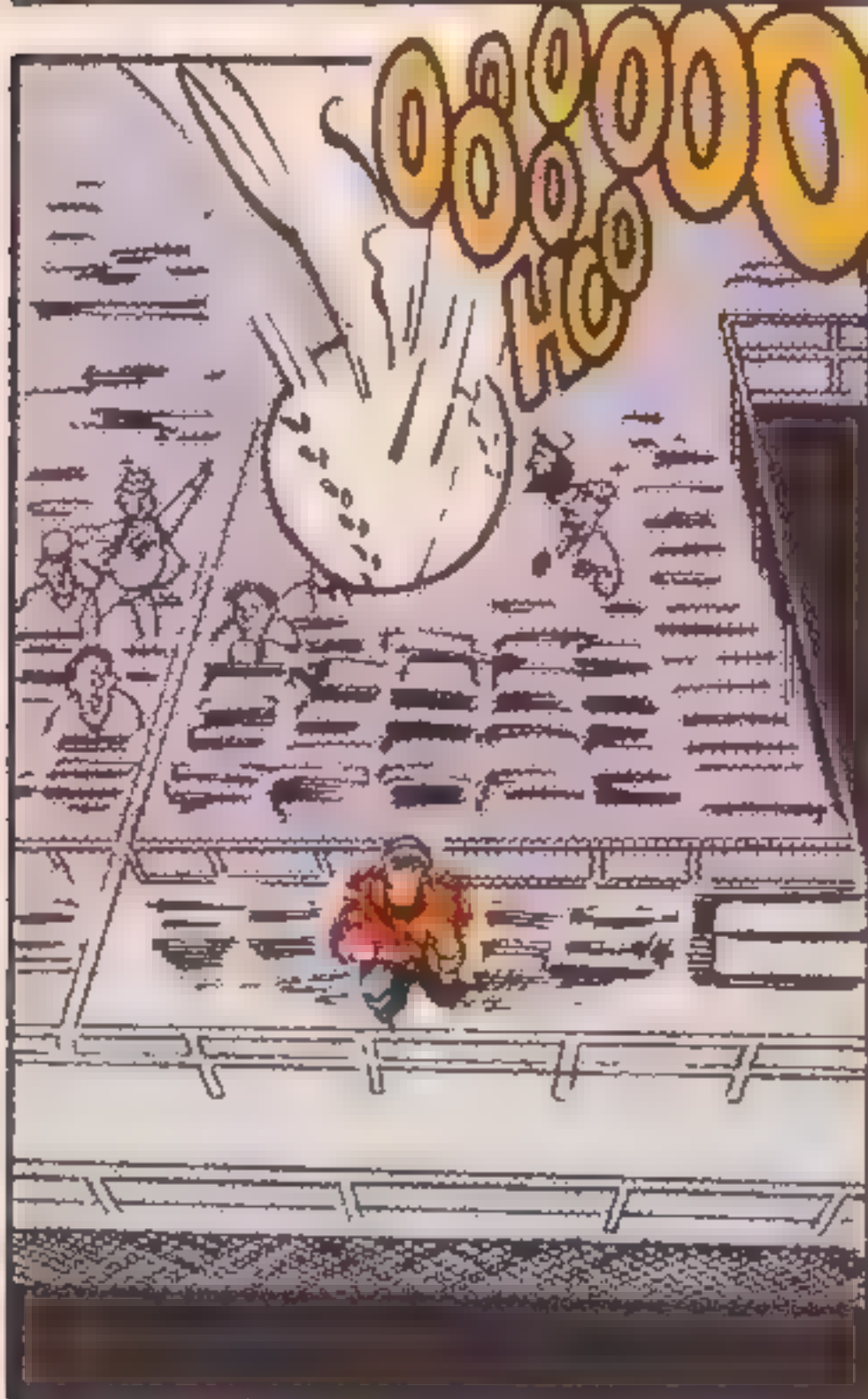
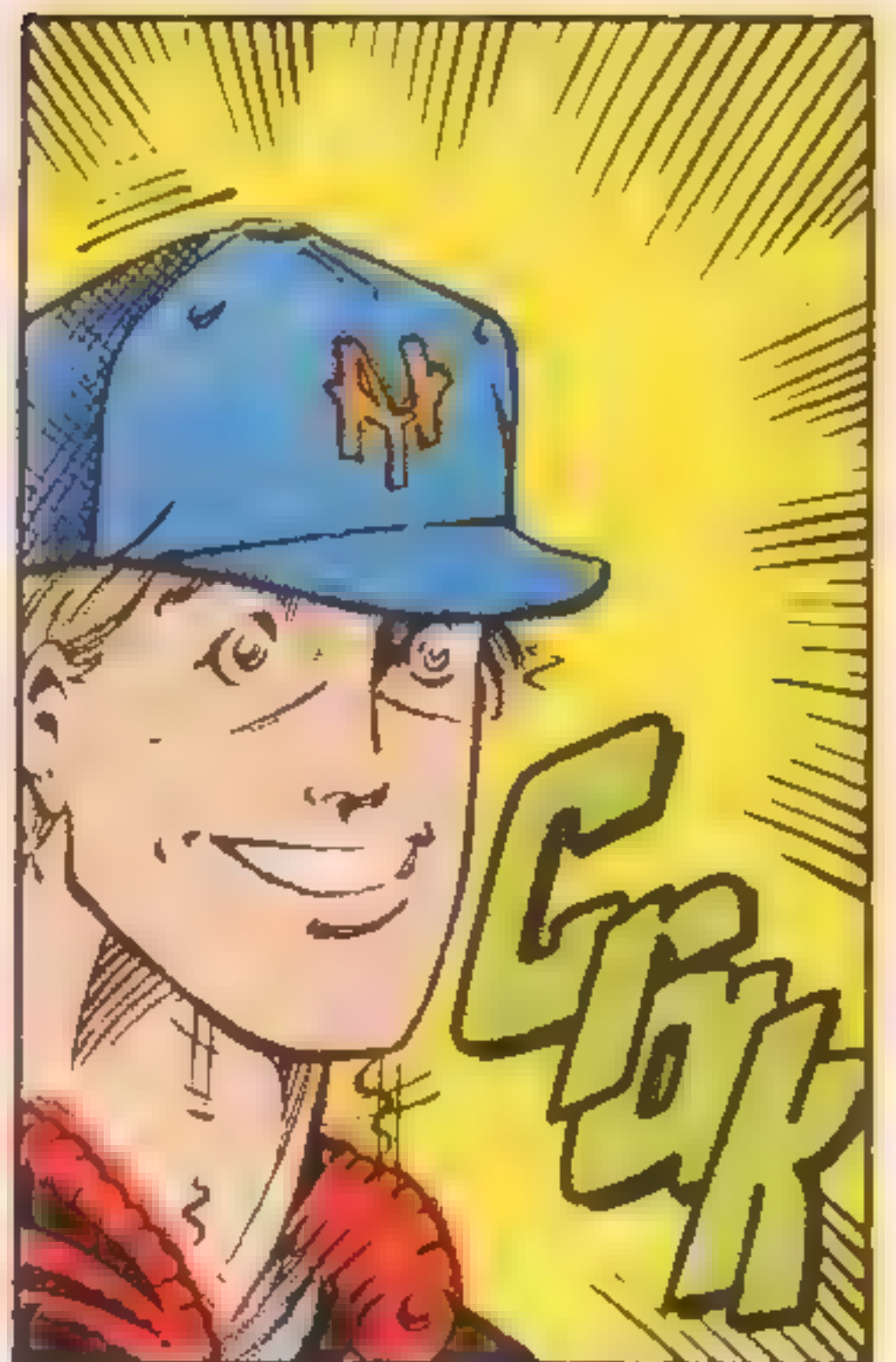
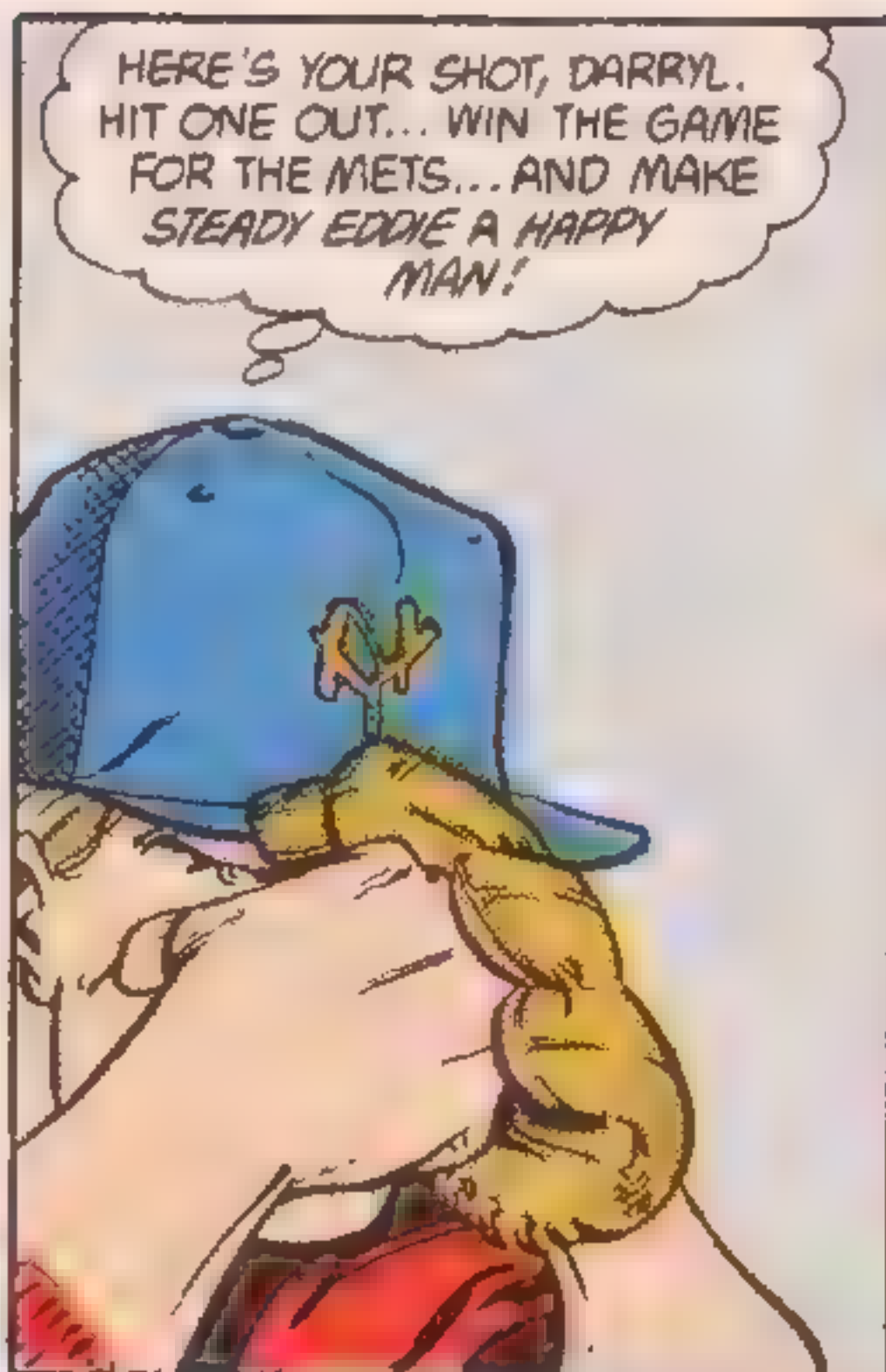


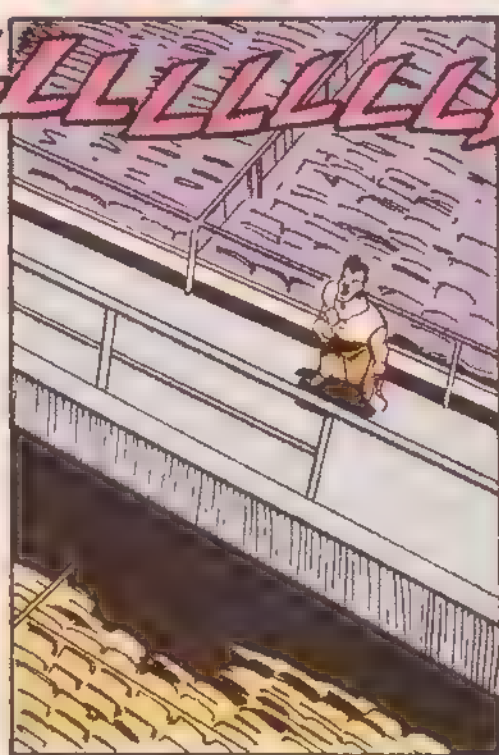
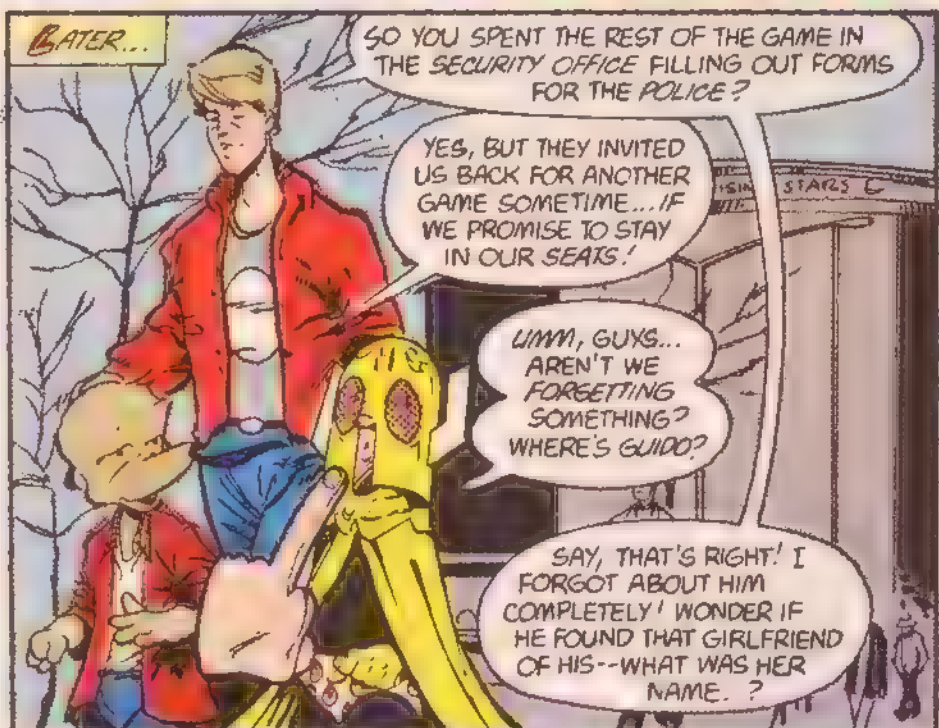
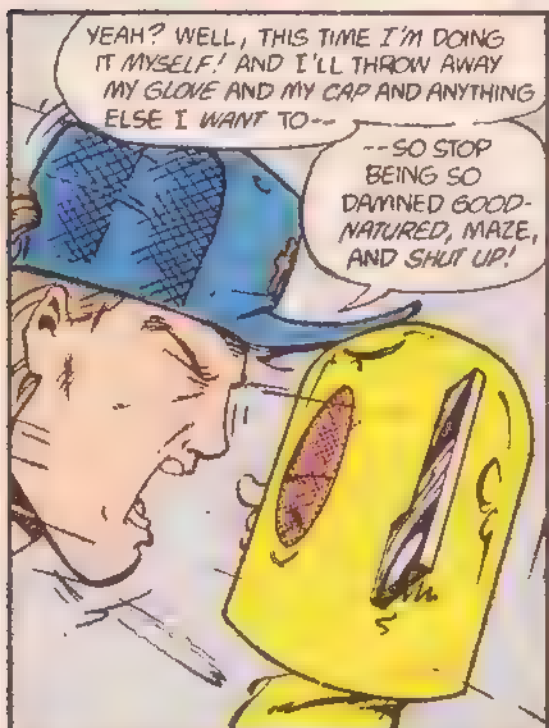
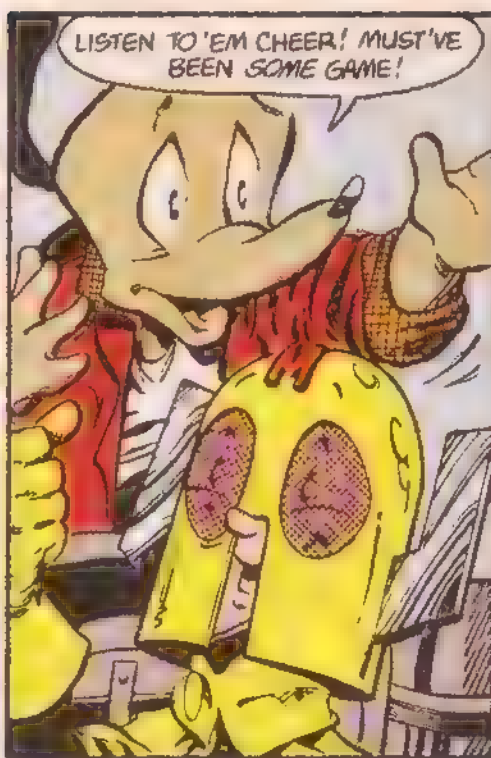
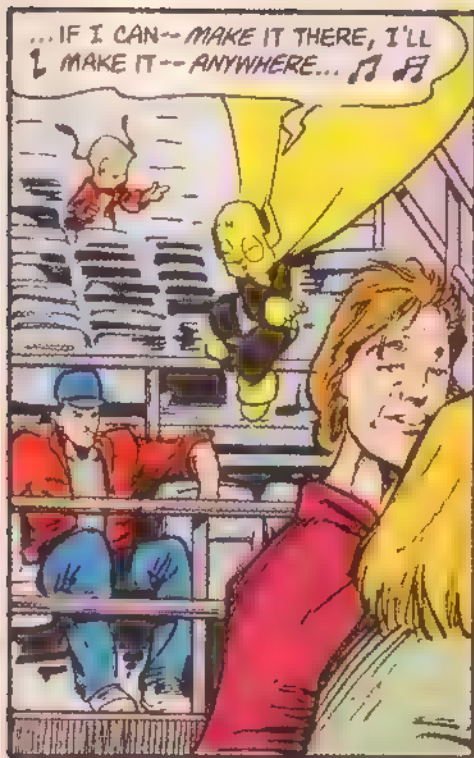






LATER.. (YEAH, MUCH LATER.
PIRATES, 3, METS, 2, BOTTOM
OF THE NINTH, CARTER ON FIRST
AND STRAWBERRY AT BAT WITH
TWO OUTS!)







L-2305

First, a Public Service Announcement

Innocently observing in these pages, in the most dispassionate, doggedly factual manner, that Stephen's crooning may not be, er, his long suit exactly ... I seem to have incurred the Wrath of DeStefano! Just the other day, he and my treacherous roommate, Ed Hannigan (DC's cover editor and Algold baiter), broke (not at all spontaneously) into interminable humid choruses of "Come, Mr Tally-man, tally me ba-na-na!" until I cried uncle! So here comes my Retraction:

HEAR YE! STEPHEN DE STEFANO IS A GREAT SINGER! HE RANKS AMONG THE VERY MOST AUDIBLE VOCALISTS OF HIS GENERATION! (Will that do, Stephen?) I SWEAR TO THE ABOVE, WITH MY FINGERS CROSSED FIRMLY OVER MY HEART!

Sheesh. I never said anything nasty about his drawings, did I? Can't a mean-spirited little snake have any fun?!

Dear 'Mazers:

First off, you simply have to name your letter column 'Mazing Mail. OK, now that you have done that we can get down to the comments. 'MAZING MAN is great. No ... it's stupendous. No ... it's incredible. No ... I've got it, it's *amazing*. The characters are so realistic I sometimes feel like I'm talking to a Brenda or a Guido. "Easy Money" was very funny, and I hope issue three will show us some more of 'Mazing Man's fund-raising ideas. The skunks in the bathtub were hysterical.

Denton's search for a job on a comic book staff was very funny. You guys really don't go through such a traumatic experience, do you? Keep it up, etc.

Octavius Cnerd
Danbury, CT

Dear Alan,

I originally ordered 'MAZING MAN through my local comics shop, in the mistaken belief that the book would feature Amazing Man from the ALL-STAR SQUADRON. Lucky for me that I did.

This book is funny, without looking "funny." The artwork looks similar to Marshall Rogers's style, but instead of going for the bizarre, it goes for the ordinary. The people look just the way real people look. The only two unusual-looking folks are Denton and 'Mazing Man. Of the two, 'Mazing Man stands out due to the yellow-and-black outfit (with the polka dot shorts), which makes him appear a second cousin to Hourman.

As for the stories, they are well paced and balanced with both humor and plot. For example, "Easy Money" takes its time in getting to the main joke, how 'Mazing Man

gets his money. But before we learn his source of wealth, we are given theories that become outrageous, normal questions that become silly (how does he keep that helmet so shiny?), and then a reversal of curiosity towards Maze and his source of income.

The same madness holds for "Occupations," where a simple task of buying shoes enters the unreal. Or Denton taking a script for Krypto and modifying it for BC Comics. By the way, I liked the joke involving Max Gaines, who was one of the founders of DC Comics and the first editor of ACTION COMICS.

I hope there are a lot more issues of 'MAZING MAN coming from Bob Rozakis and Stephen DeStefano. These days we need all the laughs we can get.

Hurricane Heeran
15908 Sherman Way #5
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Dear 'Mazing People,

Who is this book targeted for really?

The humor in between the lines is incredible, much like *Howard the Duck* at his peak. However, unlike *Howard*, you have chosen to look at life from the positive side. This is a big plus. Maze is a joy to watch blunder through the world. After so many years of watching heroes suffer against the worst of luck, it is refreshing to see one who has luck on his side. By taking this positive view, you expose the absurdities of society far more effectively than any tragicomic-sociopolitical comic before you. Maze continues to touch the "happy child" in me. He is the sort of person you want to have around, maybe not too close, but around. He cares. He really cares. This is also a bit unusual for the standard hero. Think about it. He doesn't have great powers that he has an obligation to use in the protection of mankind. Neither is he motivated by revenge against the wicked criminal element that ruined his life. Like Green Arrow, he takes care of the "little people."

The multistory format works well for the book. Again it is a refreshing break from the epic-saga-type stories so prevalent today. Not that there is anything wrong with epics; they have their place. But this book at this time is not that place.

The characters are taking on a life of their own. All of them are thoroughly likable, even Guido. He was on my tenuous list, but he moved off this month. True, he is a loud, boonsy, over-machoed lunk, but for all that, he is human. He creates his own problems through his lack of observation and not listening. He is also a responsible person. Denton is also coming along nicely. I really enjoy the way his emotions are expressed through his

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ears. In spite of his appearance, he remains remarkably human. I trust, however, that his working for a comic company will not turn into a poor in-joke. Brenda and Eddie are still a bit indistinct, but next issue promises to add depth to their characters.

As I said last month, this is a fun book. Please keep it that way.

Brian Lieske
Box 2210
Towson State University
Towson, MD 21204

Dear 'Mazing Ones,

Okay, so Maze has just tons of money since he won the Publisher's Reading House Sweepstakes. Fair enough. But what did he do for money before that? His sweepstakes win must be very recent for it to be used in the sweepstakes advertising, but he's been a super-hero (and weird) for quite some time, apparently. So, what's the scoop? And say, will awesome wealth change the lovable little Maze we're all coming to know and love? I mean, will he go nuts with all that money and blow it on slurpees and baseball cards?

Now, then, what's this thing on the cover about *Ee-Zed Money*? (Well, that's how I read it!) What's *Ee-Zed Money*? Is it a special kind of secret American currency known only to true patriots, or what? Let's clear up this mystery now! (And while you're at it, maybe you could tell me why they call that nice comfy chair a *La-Zed Boy Recliner*.)

It's just so typical that Maze has no money problems—and that others should be so bugged that he doesn't. They consider themselves above him in many ways and since they have money problems, he certainly should, too! Or so they think. In some ways, we make money problems for ourselves because we worry about it so much. Sure, money is important, but so many other things in life are even more precious. And sometimes people without much money are truly happy despite (because of?) it. And then there's guys like Maze who are happy and rich. (Grrrrr)

Finally, gosh, what a kooky, ridiculous name Maze has! Siegfried H. Hunch III! Get serious! Must you saddle him with such a dopey name? Of course, few names could even approach the cool, crisp, northern magnificence of...

"T.M. Maple"
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ontario M9L2R9
Canada

Dear Guys:

There is on television a long-running, much-praised situation comedy called

CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

Cheers. It's supposed to be about warm, human feelings and stuff, but it has this nasty bitter black edge that's consistently ignored. Working-class people are treated like one-dimensional idiots. The hero gleefully admits that he's a moron (but it's all right because he's good-looking enough to be the blond partner on a new Glen Larson cop show, and there's this fiendish female dwarf who consistently gets big laughs by such madcap antics as stepping on peoples' throats and hitting grown men).

'MAZING MAN #2 was better than the last two seasons of that program.

S A. Bennett
687 Merton Avenue
Akron, OH 44306

Dear Alan,

To be honest, when I picked up 'MAZING MAN #1 & 2 I was expecting no more than DC's answer to Star comics. I've never been more wrong.

Comics with cute heroes are nothing new, but comics with cute heroes and no plot? That's certainly novel. What makes it even more surprising is that it works. And it's fun. And I love it. And I don't care who knows.

Look at me, a serious comics fan starting my night's letterhacking with a silly letter to a kiddy comic—no, Start again. Whatever 'MAZING MAN is, it's not a kiddy comic. Maybe kids enjoy it, but so does everyone I've shown it to so far. Some of the jokes don't travel too well, but many of the characters and situations are incredibly close to British life, as well as American. (Yes, we have the *Reader's Digest* here too!)

Congratulations on daring to put out a truly alternative comic—and congratulations for making it a good one. Even though you didn't end with a cliff hanger, I can't wait for the next issue.

Yours until touchdown,

James Wallis
The Manor House
Little Bealings
Woodbridge, Suffolk
Great Britain

Dear Mazing Men:

After being so thoroughly enthralled, excited, and moved by issue one of 'MAZING MAN, I expected to be less than thrilled by issue two. Issue two lived up to my expectation. But don't worry guys, second issues of any new comic series tend to lean toward mediocrity. Here are a few suggestions to help prevent second-issue-mediocrity-blues from returning.

"Day in the life" issues are great, but first we need to see more of our hero in action. All we saw this issue was an eccentric millionaire who dressed like an undernourished super-midget. Where was the quest for truth, justice, and the American way? Before we see the life of Siegfried Horatio Hunch, mild-mannered magazine reader and neighborhood bank patron, let's see 'Mazing Man's origin. Why is he the ridiculously wonderful self-proclaimed hero that he is? Let's see his loving heroics, and let's find out what motivates him.

Focus on Love and Goodness. I know this sounds silly, but I'm real serious. So much of

Entertainment Art of the 1980's focuses on the negative in this world. We see so much that we begin to believe negativity as the only truth, that people are intrinsically screwed up. Is 'Mazing Man here to do some unscrewing? Celebrate love, giving, personal growth, human-ness! Celebrate truth, justice, and the American way! And possibly we might be able to touch, however briefly, the hero in ourselves. You can't change the world with a comic, but you can help brighten it. It needs brightening.

Wow, I'm getting preachy. I sound like a born-again-'Mazing. But heck, there is so much potential in this undernourished super-midget, and I would hate to see the second-issue-mediocrity-blues escalate to the seventh-issue-cancellation-rag.

Take Care!

Ken V. Wolf
240 Halstead Ave. C1
Harrison, NY 10528

Dear DC,

Y'know, it used to take Christmas or my birthday to give me as warm a feeling inside as when I read the first two issues of 'MAZING MAN. The comic works on several levels—humor, pathos, slice-of-life realism, drama, others I can't put labels on.

But I'll put my own label right on the cover. another triumph for DC. Happy 50th, everyone; and thanks, Bob and Stephen. I hope the sea monkeys arrive safe and well.

David H. Smith
2113 South 29th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Dear Stephen and Bob,

I could kick myself! I waited a month before buying 'MAZING MAN #1. It was not until I saw #2 at the comic shop (graphic magazine emporium, that is), that I took notice of 'MAZING MAN. The cover of #2 caught my eye; I thumbed through and liked the art. For continuity's sake I went back and bought #1, even though I was harboring a little dread. It looked like another case of a good artist stuck on a dumb book.

Looks certainly are deceiving, aren't they. 'MAZING MAN is simply 'mazing!!! I hope you don't get tired of hearing that, because it probably won't stop for a long, long time.

The best thing about 'MAZING MAN is the supporting characters, heck, even the incidental characters are great. It is refreshing to see that with all the trash out these days. All the characters have depth, feelings, and fit into everyday realities ... except for the slightly far-fetched" (apologies to Denton).

The only complaint I have is that no one twisted my arm to buy this sooner. At least I can buy #2 in the morning without having to wait a month, but then there is #3...

Thanks for 'Mazing me,

Christopher Mize
P.O. Box 949
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Since you feel that way, Christopher, why don't you go out and twist a couple of arms yourself? I thought Stephen's art would be an instant hit on the grounds of novelty alone. It's a lot drier and more sophisticated than most funny animal comics I'm familiar

with. But a lot of people have assumed that we're putting out something for the preschool crowd (although why the little 'uns would want to slog through all the copy we deliver is beyond me).

Anyway ... I wish I had a nickel for every letter I've received so far that begins, "I thought this was going to be a comic for four-year-olds," or words to that effect, and then announces what a pleasant surprise the actual article turns out to be, when actually read. So here's your mission, Christopher: if you like 'MAZING MAN (and would even like to see other comics like it perhaps, someday), pass on the message to your drag-footed or downright know-it-all friends. And also tell your comic shop owner so he'll do a little stumping of his own. Okay?

Thanks, too, to everyone else who wrote:

rick jones	Patrick Stevens
Philip A. Brady	Nicky Bates
Gerard Cruz	Thomas Van Eck
Mario Tiambeng Jr.	Andy Sved
Chris Brown	Bill Waldroop
Denny Dukes	Brett A. Tolino
Michael Marks	Jason Walker
Chuck Sholea	Mark Ford
Peter H. Ditsan	David Cross
Lawrence Manuel	Dennis Snelgrove
Jamie Boyd	John Parramore
Jim Auman	Gina Meskil
Ken Wolf	Rob Caswell
David Anderson	Marcus Tonti
Charles D. Brown	The Good Samaritan
Charles David Haskell	
George Broderick	(love the picture, George)

If I've omitted anyone, it was an oversight I regret.

Last Licks: We've received a mess and a half of suggestions to date for our letter column heading. Next issue, a new masthead will grace our column, rest assured!

And while we're on the subject...



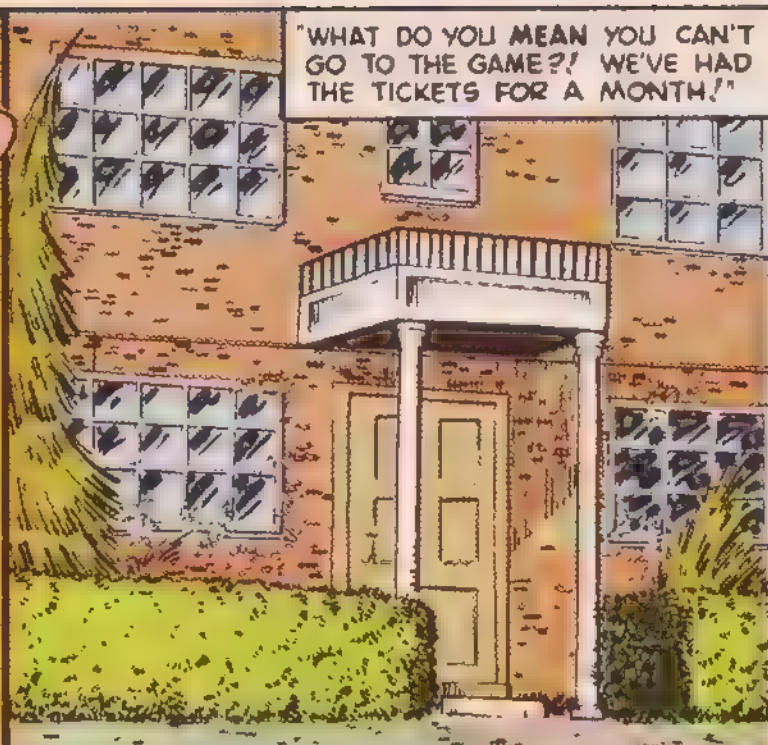
NEXT ISSUE: "A Night in October's" brings you a beer-drinking contest starring Guido Garibaldi. And that doesn't begin to tell you all the stuff that's in this story.

And if that isn't enough...! We proudly present our first installment of our new back-up feature, "The Very Fun Adventures of Zoot Sputnik and His Friends." Stephen wrote it all by himself, and the artist is someone you may have heard of, a DC Comics stalwart ... Mr. Fred Hembeck! See you in thirty days!

ALGOLD!

BRENDA'S STORY

BOB ROZAKIS STEPHEN DESTEFANO KARL KESEL
 writer co-creators penciller inker
 BOB LAPPAN TOM ZIUKO ALAN GOLD
 letterer colorist editor



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T GO TO THE GAME?! WE'VE HAD THE TICKETS FOR A MONTH!"

"I HAVE TO WORK, EDDIE. THIS JOB IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HANK."

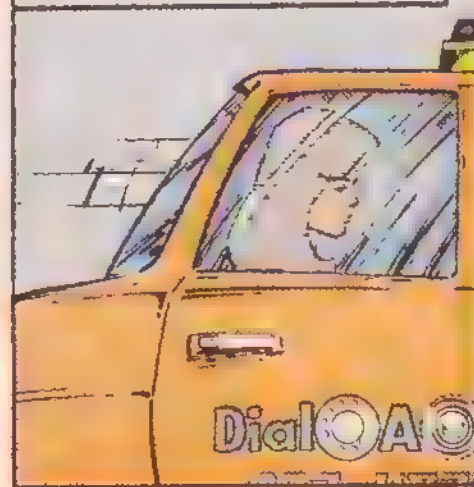


"BUT IT'S SUNDAY! NOBODY WORKS ON SUNDAY!"



"BUT I DO! IT'S MY JOB!"

"COME OFF IT. THEY'RE PAYING YOU FOR 35 HOURS A WEEK AND GETTING 60!"



"EDDIE, IF I WANT TO GET ANYWHERE, I'VE GOT TO PUT IN THE HOURS..."

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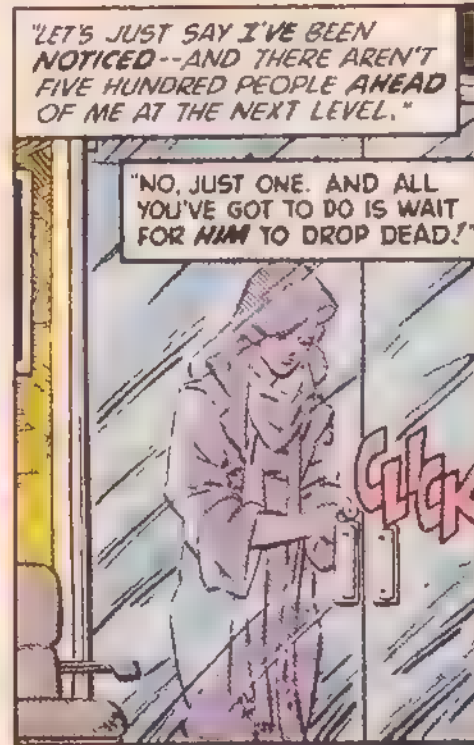
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BRENDA VALENTINE, SAY 'HI' TO *HANK CHERNEY*, OUR NEW ART DIRECTOR.

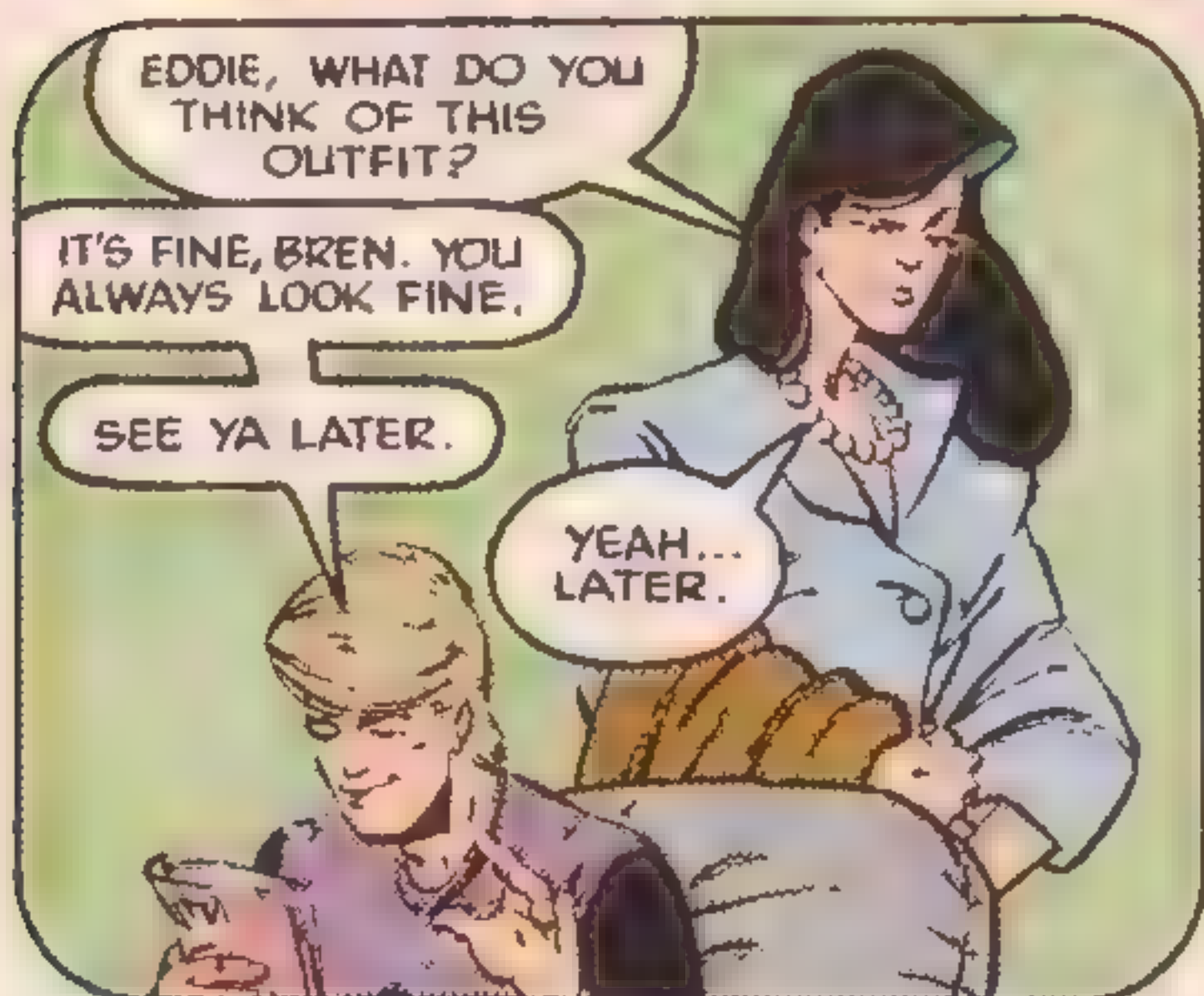
HANK.

BREN-DA!
VERY PLEASED
TO MEET YOU!

NEW ART DIRECTOR
STARTED TODAY.

MMM? ANOTHER
"CREATIVE GENIUS"?

NOT
THIS TIME,
I THINK.

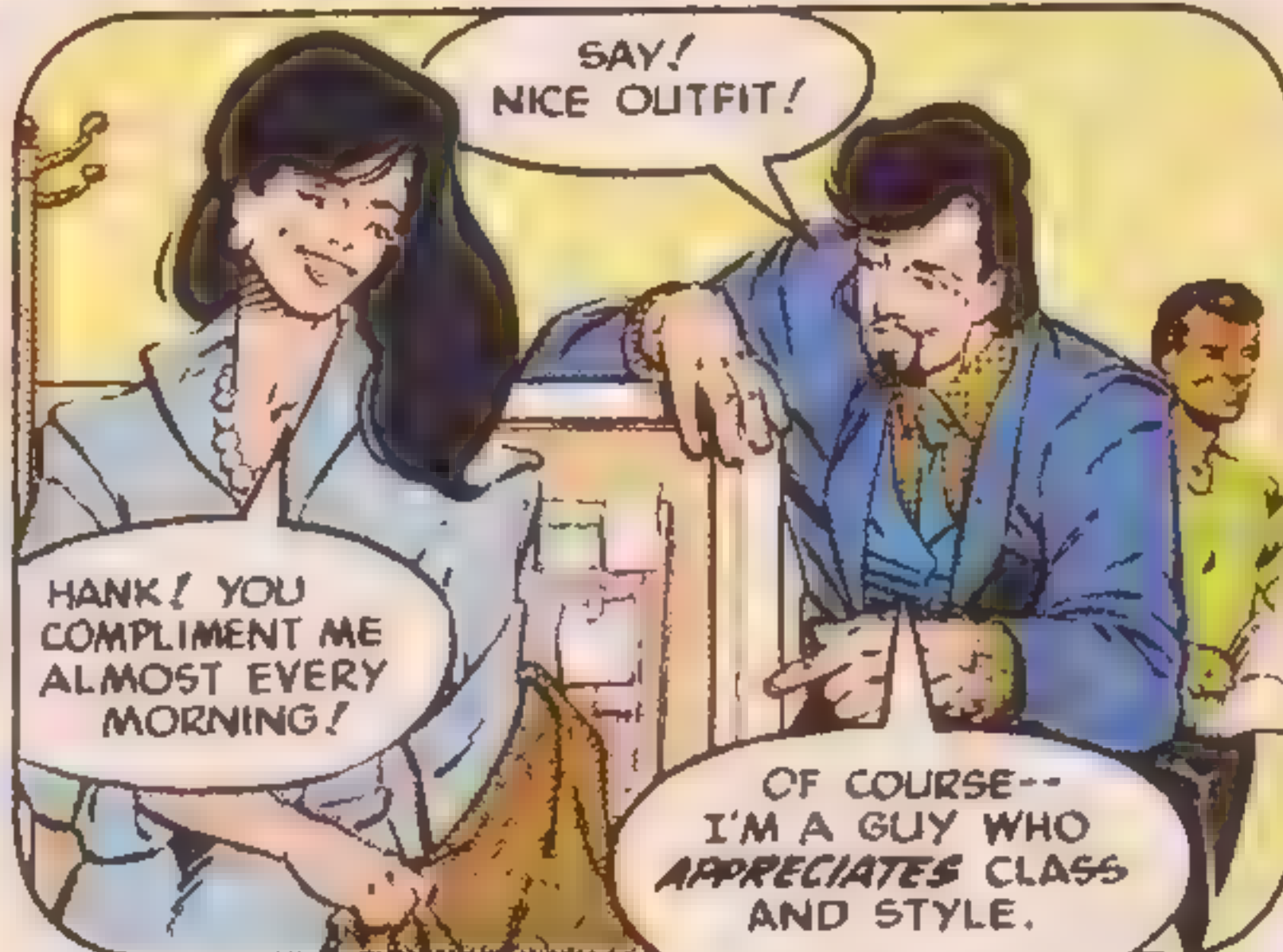


EDDIE, WHAT DO YOU
THINK OF THIS
OUTFIT?

IT'S FINE, BREN. YOU
ALWAYS LOOK FINE.

SEE YA LATER.

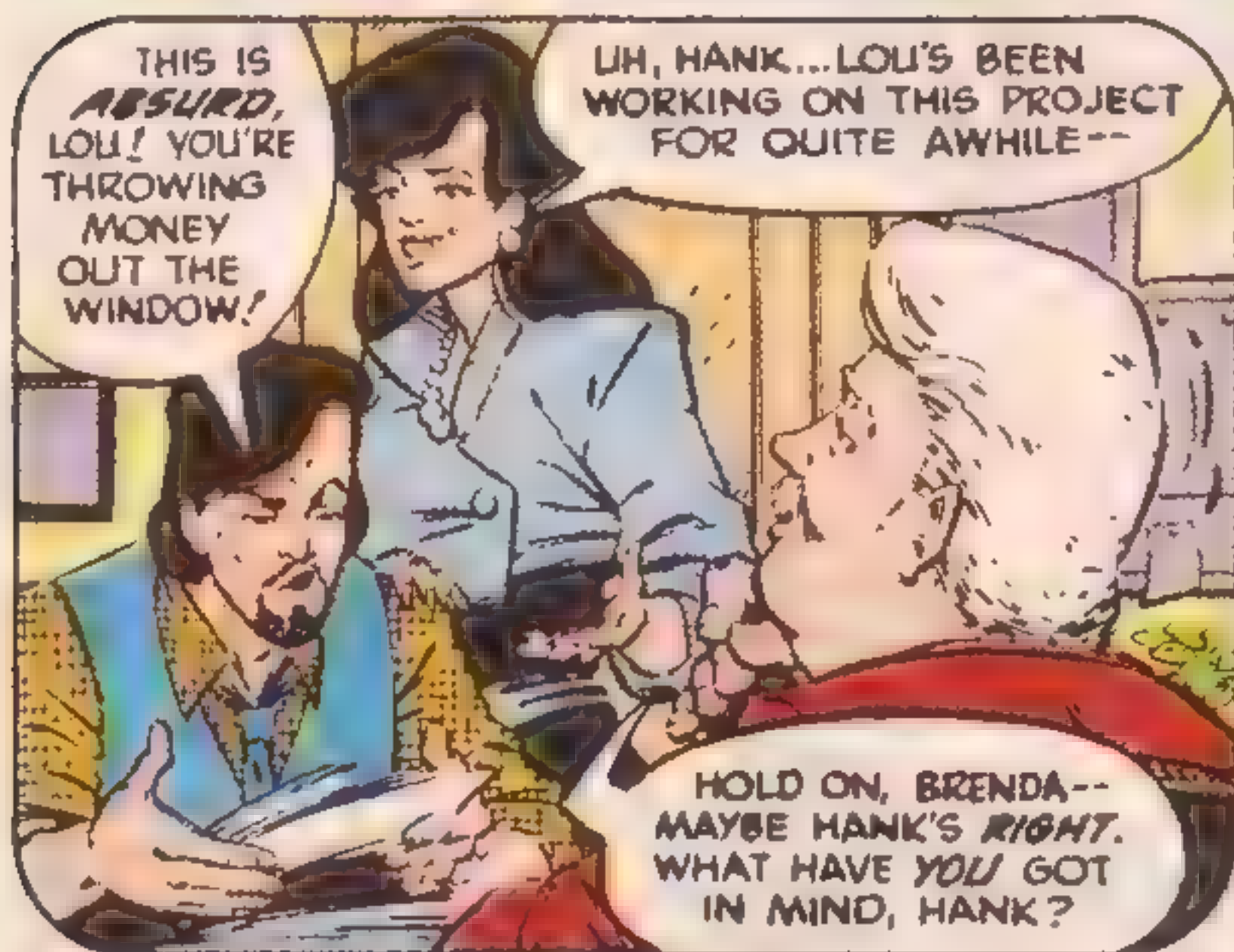
YEAH...
LATER.



SAY!
NICE OUTFIT!

HANK! YOU
COMPLIMENT ME
ALMOST EVERY
MORNING!

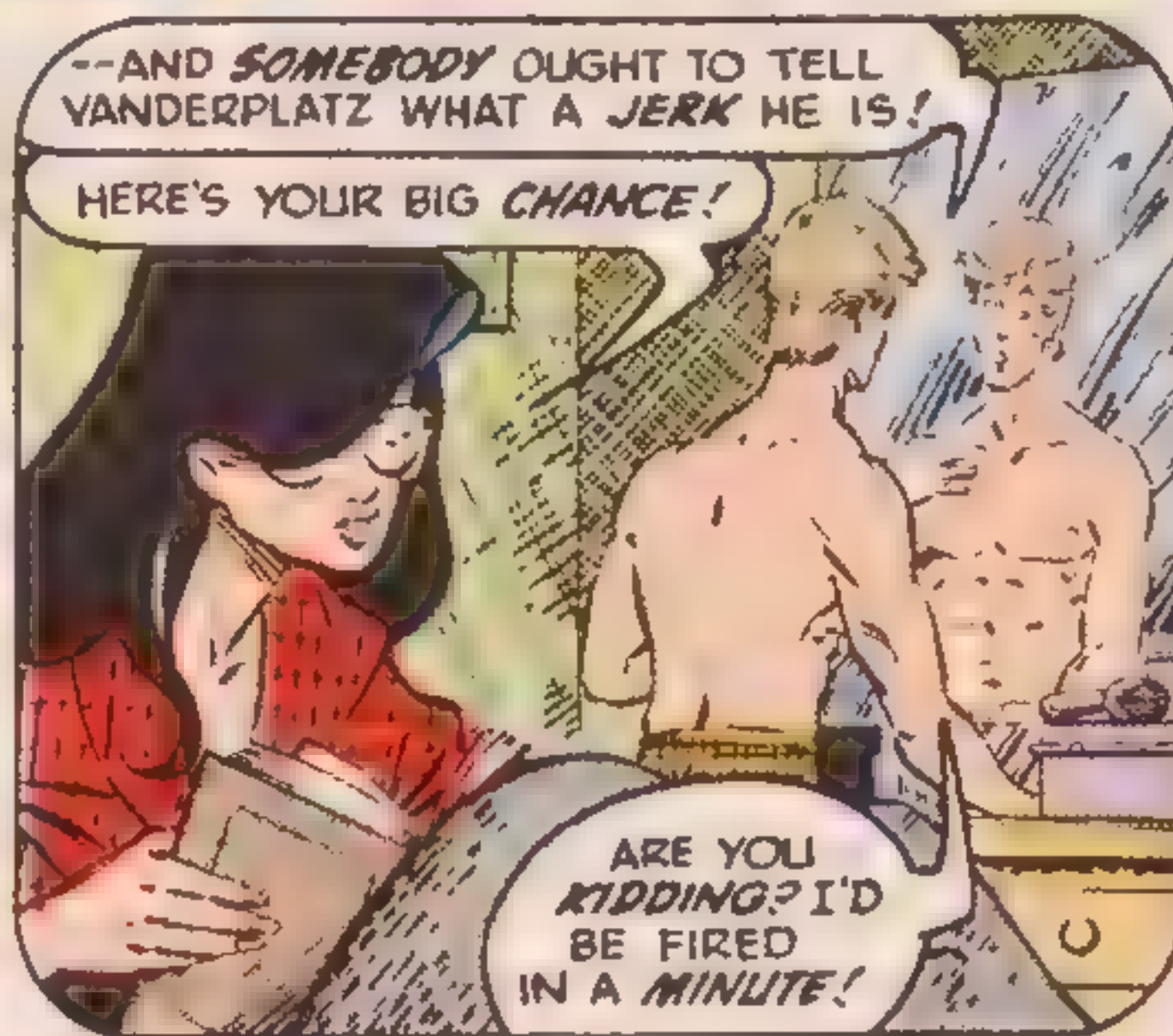
OF COURSE--
I'M A GUY WHO
APPRECIATES CLASS
AND STYLE.



THIS IS
ABSURD,
LOU! YOU'RE
THROWING
MONEY
OUT THE
WINDOW!

UH, HANK...LOU'S BEEN
WORKING ON THIS PROJECT
FOR QUITE AWHILE--

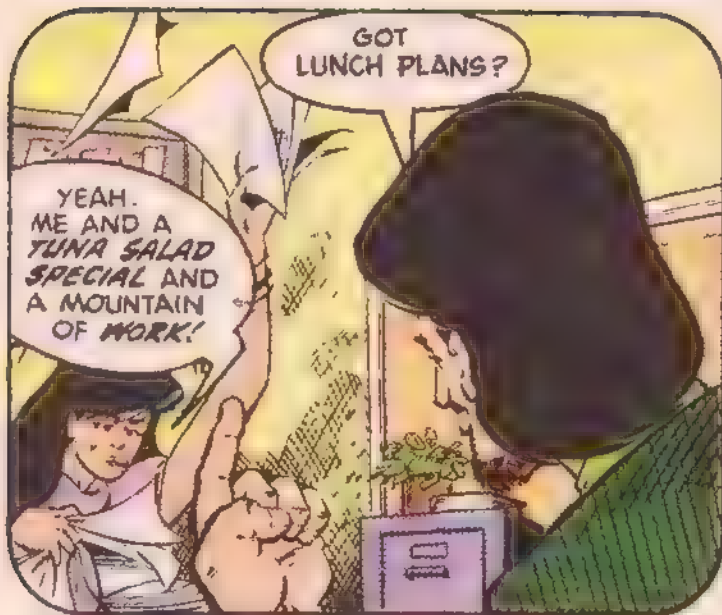
HOLD ON, BRENDA--
MAYBE HANK'S *RIGHT*.
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT
IN MIND, HANK?



--AND *SOMEBODY* OUGHT TO TELL
VANDERPLATZ WHAT A *JERK* HE IS!

HERE'S YOUR BIG *CHANCE*!

ARE YOU
RIDDING? I'D
BE FIRED
IN A *MINUTE*!



GOT LUNCH PLANS?

YEAH. ME AND A TUNA SALAD SPECIAL AND A MOUNTAIN OF WORK!



OH, HANK!

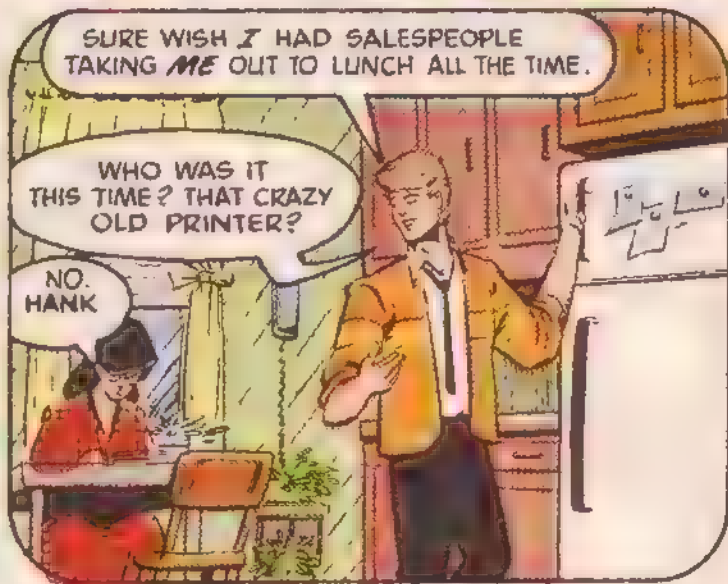
WORK WILL WAIT. A BODY NEEDS AIR AND WHAT PASSES FOR SUNSHINE IN THIS CITY, TOO!



ARE YOU GONNA COOK DINNER OR NOT?

WOULD IT KILL YOU TO DO IT...EVEN IF IT'S NOT YOUR TURN?

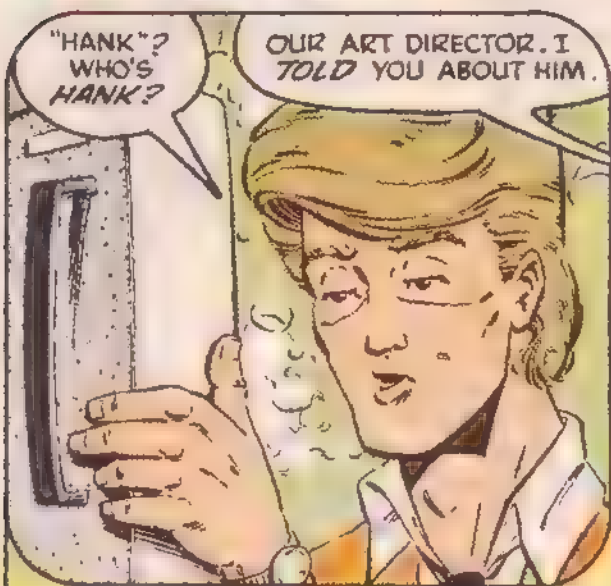
ANYWAY, I HAD A BIG LUNCH...I'M NOT HUNGRY.



SURE WISH I HAD SALESPEOPLE TAKING ME OUT TO LUNCH ALL THE TIME.

WHO WAS IT THIS TIME? THAT CRAZY OLD PRINTER?

NO, HANK.



"HANK"? WHO'S HANK?

OUR ART DIRECTOR. I TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM.



HE'S LED SUCH AN INTERESTING LIFE! STUDIED ART IN PARIS AND JAPAN...

MM-HMM.

...AND HE'S HAD HIS WATERCOLORS DISPLAYED AT--

ONE SCOOP OR TWO?





NO, REALLY, I THINK IT'D BE FUN TO TAKE IN A **SHOW** SOMETIME--ALL FOUR OF US!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. EDDIE'S STRICTLY A SPILLED-GUTS-AND-CAR-CHASE MAN WHEN IT COMES TO THEATRICAL EVENINGS.



NO PROBLEM! WE'LL DROP HIM OFF AT **"RETURN OF THE ZOMBIE"** AND PICK HIM UP LATER.

JUST THINK IT OVER--OKAY?

OH--HANK WANTS US TO JOIN HIM AND HIS GIRLFRIEND SOMETIME--AT A CONCERT.

A CONCERT?



YOU REMEMBER GOING TO **CONCERTS**, SURELY--BEFORE THEY INVENTED **MUSIC VIDEOS**!

VERY DROLL, BRENDA--**DAMN!** HOW COULD THEY MISS THAT **PLAY!**



--I WAS WORKING TWELVE HOURS A DAY JUST TO KEEP UP WITH HER SO I TOLD HER IT HAD TO STOP. IT DID.

I CAME HOME A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER AND SHE WAS GONE.

GONE?



LEFT A BIG NOTE BEGINNING, "CIAO, MY DEAR!" SHE'D RUN OFF WITH HER ANALYST! BLAMED ME FOR THE AFFAIR--I WAS NEVER **AROUND**, YOU SEE!

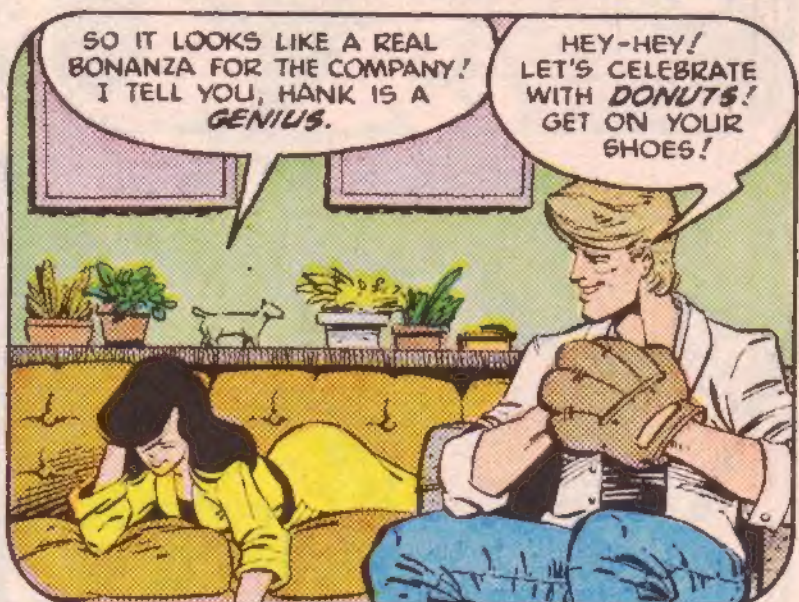
CAN YOU BEAT **THAT**??!



WE **DID** IT! THEY **LOVE** OUR CAMPAIGN--WON'T CHANGE A WORD!

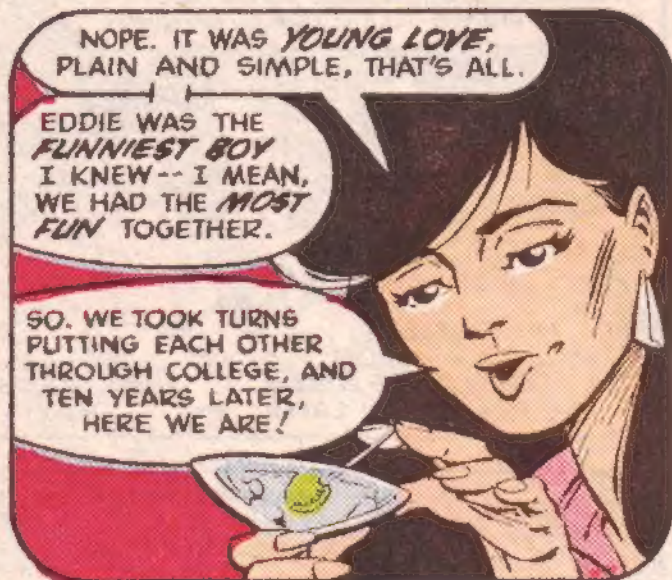
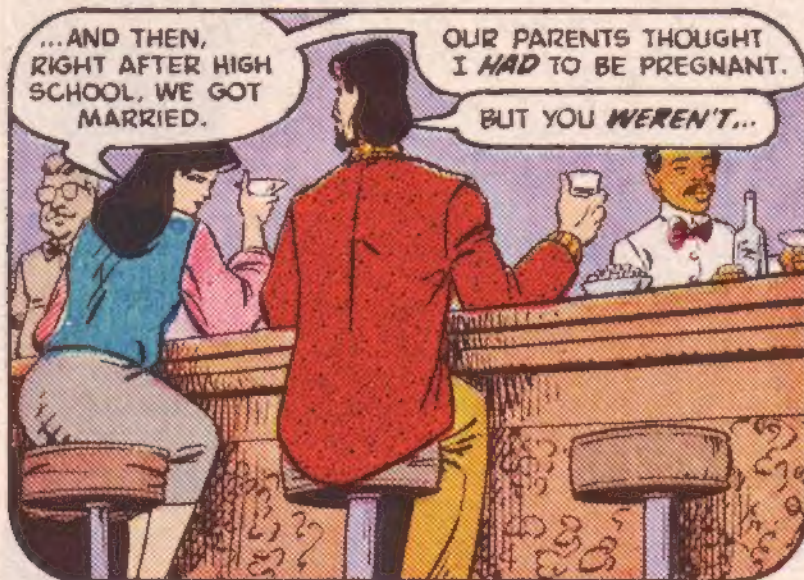
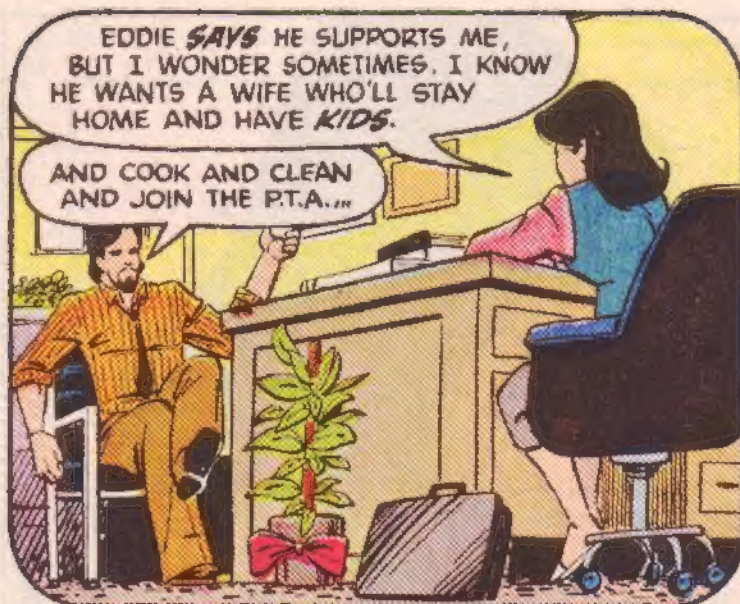
YOU DID IT, HANK! IT WAS ALL YOUR IDEAS.

AND I SAY YOU CONTRIBUTED A **LOT**--SO DON'T ARGUE! MODESTY WILL GET YOU **NOWHERE** IN THIS BUSINESS!



SO IT LOOKS LIKE A REAL BONANZA FOR THE COMPANY! I TELL YOU, HANK IS A **GENIUS**.

HEY-HEY! LET'S CELEBRATE WITH **DONUTS**! GET ON YOUR SHOES!



"TELL ME YOU'LL COME IN
THIS SUNDAY, BRENDA!"

"SUNDAY! WELL, WE, UH..."

"PLEASE! I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
MY PRESENTATION'S MONDAY
MORNING, 9 A.M. SHARP."

"WELL, IF YOU
NEED ME, HANK..."

"I WOULDN'T ASK, OTHERWISE. AND
I THOUGHT WE COULD ALSO TALK
ABOUT THAT 'GUILT' OF YOURS..."



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN
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GAME?! WE'VE HAD THE
TICKETS FOR A MONTH!"

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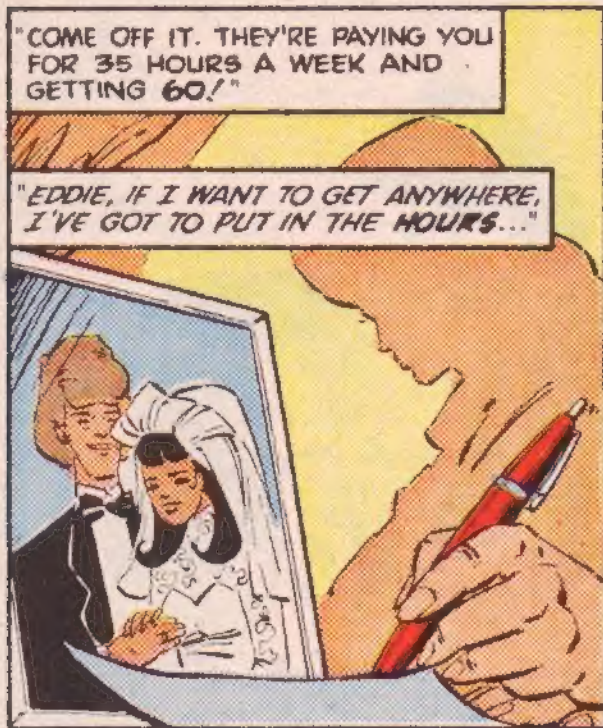
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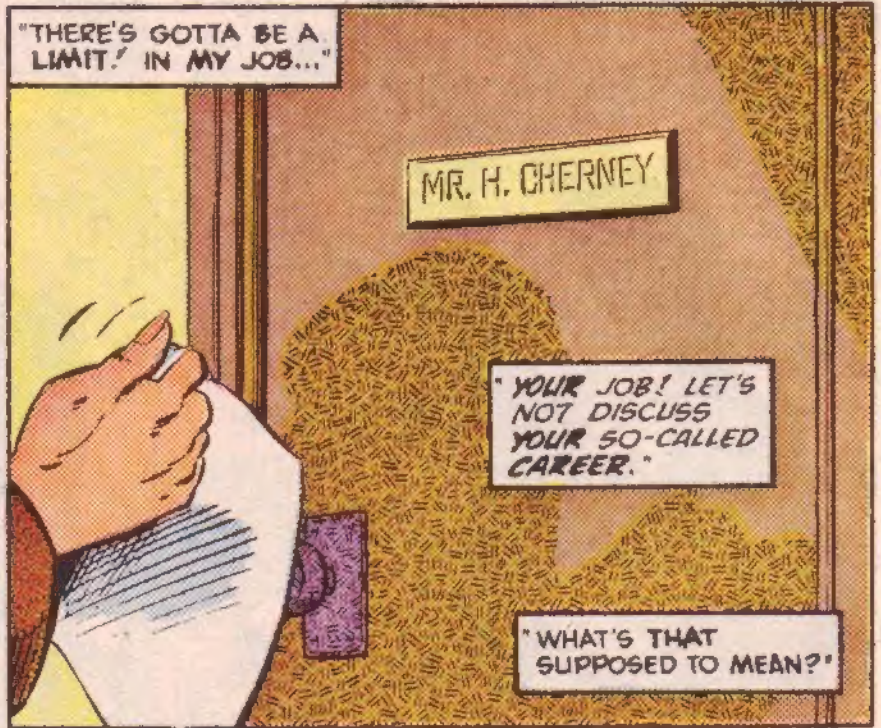


"THERE'S GOTTA BE A LIMIT! IN MY JOB..."

MR. H. CHERNEY

"YOUR JOB! LET'S NOT DISCUSS YOUR SO-CALLED CAREER."

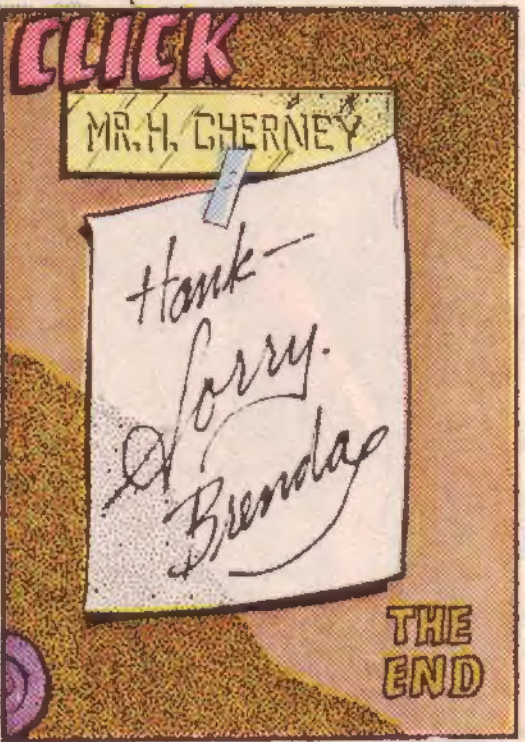
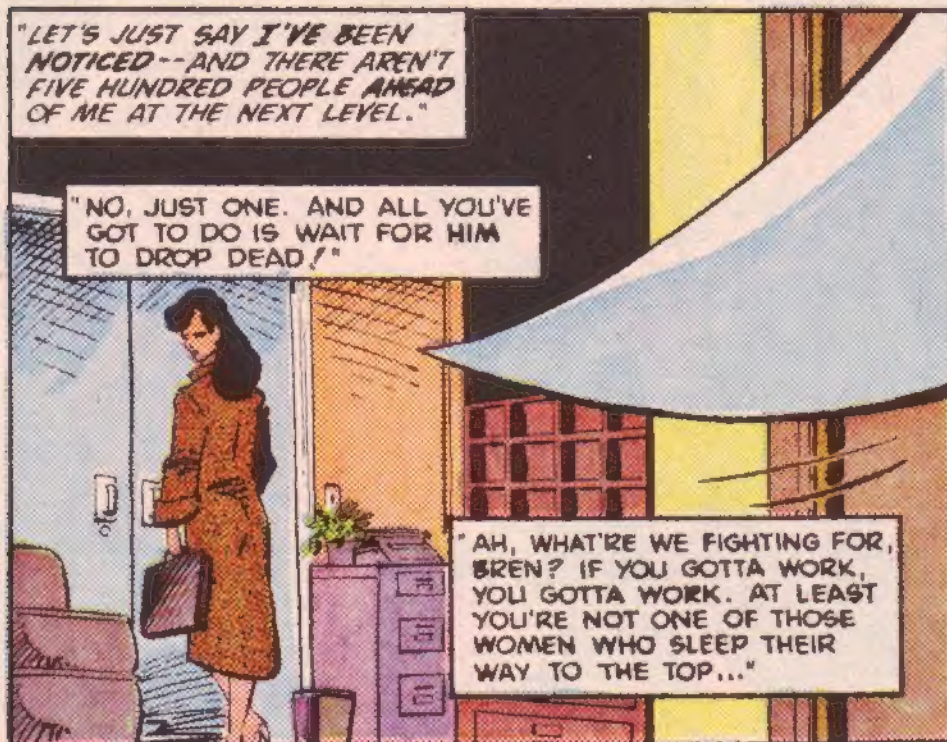
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"NO, JUST ONE. AND ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS WAIT FOR HIM TO DROP DEAD!"

"AH, WHAT'RE WE FIGHTING FOR, BREN? IF YOU GOTTA WORK, YOU GOTTA WORK. AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE WOMEN WHO SLEEP THEIR WAY TO THE TOP..."



CLICK

MR. H. CHERNEY

Hank--
Sorry.
Brenda

THE
END